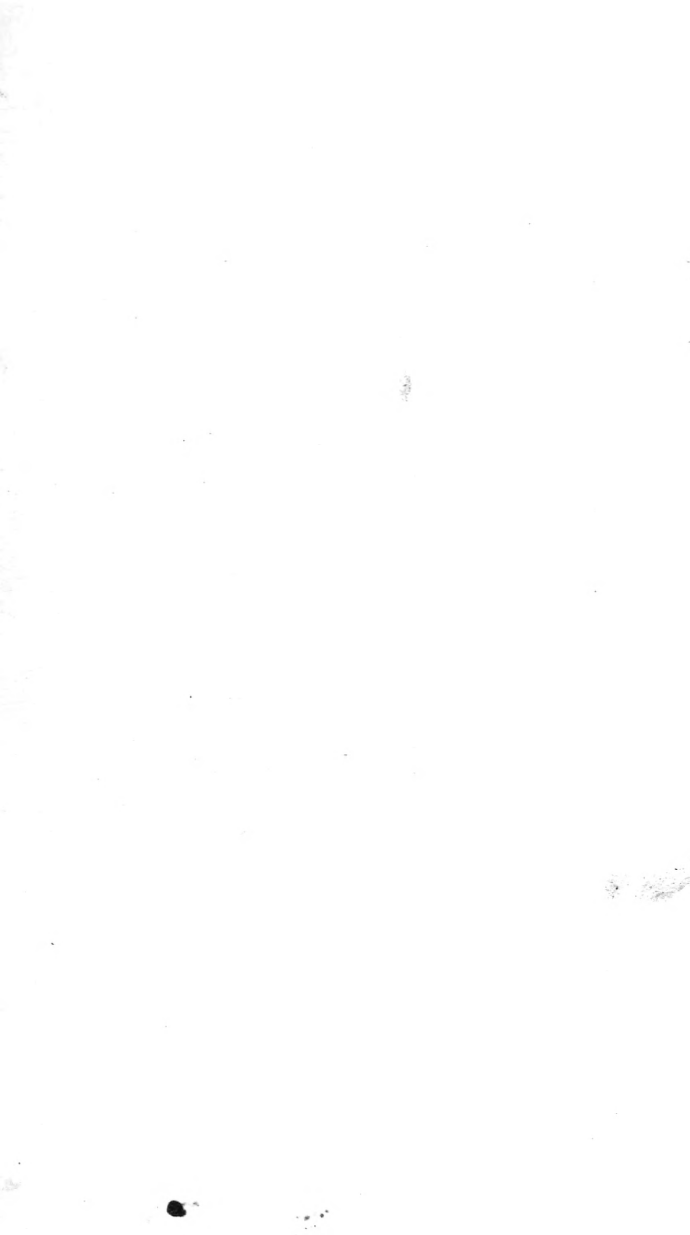
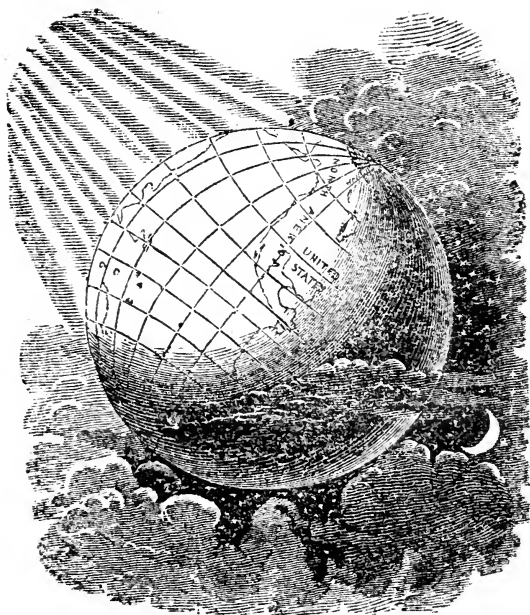




Class BS114

Book F5





THE WORLD.

GRADUATED SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEXT-BOOKS,
No. 1.

LESSONS

IN

BIBLE HISTORY.

THE OLD TESTAMENT.

BY JAMES FLOY, D.D.

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EDITOR'S NOTE TO TEACHERS.

THIS volume is the *first* of a series of text-books for Sunday-schools. It is designed for pupils of from *eight* to *nine* years of age, and is therefore written in a simple style, and for the most part in short easy words. Its purpose is to impress an *outline* of the leading *facts* taught in the Old Testament on the minds of young children.

The lessons are to be so far committed to memory by the pupils as to enable them to answer the questions at their close with readiness. Those teachers who think it best,

can allow the lesson to be *read* by their classes *before* hearing it recited, and can accompany the reading with such remarks of their own as they may deem pertinent. To meet the views of those who wish to keep the *words* of Holy Scripture before their scholars, we shall shortly publish a series of lessons from the Bible itself, to be *read* in the class after the recitation from the text-book. Thus by combining reading and recitation with remarks by the teacher, the facts taught in these lessons will be thoroughly impressed on the memory of the pupil. And the child who really masters this little volume, will have in his mind vastly more of Scripture history than he would be likely to remember if he were led through the Old Testament under the guidance of the question books now in general use.

The hymns at the close of each lesson may be committed to memory during the week, and recited on the Sabbath.

This volume will be followed by another on *New Testament* history, written on the same plan, but in a style slightly elevated above this, because intended for pupils a year or two older. A *third* volume will succeed that, on the *morality* of Holy Scripture, and a *fourth* on its *doctrines*. Should these prove acceptable to the public two others will be added in due time; the whole will constitute a complete course of Sunday-school instruction for children between the ages of eight or nine and fifteen years of age.

The lessons are fifty-two in number, it being intended that they should occupy just a year. The same plan will be observed in the

other volumes of the series. On the day for Revision, which occurs once a quarter, the teacher may propose such additional questions as may be thought proper.

To the officers of schools intending to adopt this series of text-books, we suggest that where the pupils of eight or nine years old number more than six, they should be organized into a *department* containing as many classes as may be required, to be called the primary department, or the department of Old Testament History. When they graduate at the end of the year into the next volume in the course, let them constitute a second department, or a department of New Testament history, and so on until the whole school is organized into as many departments as are demanded by the number of the books in the course.

D. W.

CONTENTS.

LESSON	PAGE
I. CREATION OF THE WORLD.....	11
II. THE GARDEN OF EDEN.....	14
III. SIN AND DEATH.....	18
IV. CAIN AND ABEL.....	21
V. ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD.....	26
VI. THE GENERAL DELUGE.....	29
VII. THE OLIVE LEAF AND THE RAINBOW	34
VIII. THE TOWER OF BABEL.....	38
IX. ABRAM AND LOT.....	42
X. SODOM AND GOMORRAH	47
XI. THE DEAD SEA	51
XII. THE TRIAL OF ABRAHAM'S FAITH.....	56
XIII. FIRST QUARTERLY REVISION	60
XIV. THE DEATH OF ABRAHAM.....	65
XV. JACOB AND ESAU.....	69
XVI. JACOB'S VISION.....	73
XVII. ISRAEL THE CONQUEROR	77
XVIII. JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS	81
XIX. JOSEPH THE GOVERNOR.....	87
XX. THE CRUEL DECREE	92
XXI. THE BIRTH OF MOSES	97
XXII. THE BURNING BUSH.....	101

LESSON	PAGE
XXIII. PHARAOH'S REFUSAL.....	106
XXIV. THE PLAGUES OF EGYPT	110
XXV. THE PASSOVER.....	117
XXVI. SECOND QUARTERLY REVISION.....	121
XXVII. PASSAGE OF THE RED SEA	126
XXVIII. THE MANNA IN THE WILDERNESS	132
XXIX. THE DAY OF PENTECOST.....	137
XXX. THE GOLDEN CALF.....	141
XXXI. THE PILLAR OF FIRE	146
XXXII. CALEB AND JOSHUA	151
XXXIII. AARON'S ROD.....	155
XXXIV. THE DEATH OF MOSES.....	159
XXXV. THE WALLS OF JERICO.....	164
XXXVI. THE DEATH OF JOSHUA.....	169
XXXVII. DEBORAH THE PROPHETESS.....	173
XXXVIII. GIDEON'S VICTORY	178
XXXIX. THIRD QUARTERLY REVISION	183
XL. JEPHTAH AND HIS DAUGHTER.....	188
XLI. SAUL, THE FIRST KING OF ISRAEL....	193
XLII. DAVID, THE ROYAL PSALMIST.....	198
XLIII. SOLOMON	203
XLIV. THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL	207
XLV. ELIJAH AND ELISHA.....	212
XLVI. THE CONQUEST OF SAMARIA	216
XLVII. THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH.....	221
XLVIII. PROPHETS AND KINGS OF JUDAH....	226
XLIX. THE DOWNFALL OF JUDAH	231
L. CAPTIVITY IN BABYLON	235
LI. SHILOH, OR THE PROMISED SAVIOUR..	240
LII. FOURTH QUARTERLY REVISION.....	245

LESSONS

IN

BIBLE HISTORY.

LESSON FIRST.

CREATION OF THE WORLD.

GOD made this world in which we live.

He made the sun too, and the moon, and the stars, and all things that we see.

He made them in six days; but he could have made them all in one day, or in less than that, by a word, as he made the light; for he said, Let there be light, and there was light.

Then God made the dry land and the sea. He made the trees and the grass; the beasts of the field; the fowls, and all kinds of birds; great whales and all sorts of fish. And God saw that all was good, and did bless all that he had made.

Then God made the first man. He made him of the dust of the earth, and gave him a

soul that could not die. He said that the beasts, and the birds, and all things he had made should serve man, and that he should rule the world and all things in it.

The first man's name was Ad-am. God gave him that name ; and then Ad-am gave names to all the wild beasts, and to the horse, and the cow, and the sheep, and all that are tame and of use to man. He gave names, too, to the birds that fly in the air, and each bore the name by which he did call them. Ad-am knew how to give them names, for God taught him, and made him wise. He was good too, and did not sin, for he was made like God.

Then the Lord made a wife to be a help for Ad-am, and to be his friend ; to love him, and talk to him, and take care of him, while he was to take care of her and love her ; for the Lord saw that it would not be good for him to have no one to talk with ; and the dumb beasts, and birds, and fish could not be his friends, for they can-not speak. Now, try and learn this hymn :

I sing the *Power* of God

That built the earth and skies ;

That spread the flow-ing seas a-broad,

And bade the mount-ains rise.

His *Wis-dom* first or-dained
 The sun to rule the day;
 The moon shines but at his com-mand,
 While all the stars o-bey.

The *Good-ness* of the Lord
 Filled the whole earth with food;
 He formed all crea-tures by his word,
 And then pro-nounced them good.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON I.

1. Who made this world?
2. What did God make?
3. What else did God make?
4. Who made the sun? the moon? the stars?
5. In how much time did God make all these things?
6. Could he have made them in less time?
7. How much less?
8. Who made the light?
9. How did God make the light?
10. What did he say when he made it?
11. Who said, Let there be light?
12. When God said, Let there be light, what then?
13. Who made the dry land?
14. Who made the sea?
15. What else did God make?
16. What did God then see?
17. Who saw that all was good?
18. What did God then do?
19. Who blessed all that he had made?
20. Of what was the first man made?

21. What did God give the first man?
 22. What cannot die?
 23. Have you a soul?
 24. What did God say should serve man?
 25. Who did he say should rule the world?
 26. What was the name of the first man?
 27. Who gave him that name?
 28. Then what did Adam do?
 29. Who gave names to beasts and birds?
 30. Who taught him how to give these names?
 31. Who made Adam wise?
 32. Whom was he made like?
 33. What did the Lord then make?
 34. What was his wife to be?
 35. What was she to do?
 36. What did the Lord see?
 37. Why could not the dumb beasts be Adam's friends?
-

LESSON SECOND.

THE GARDEN OF EDEN.

THE name which Ad-am gave to his wife was Eve. He said, She is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. She shall be call-ed wo-man, for she was ta-ken out of man.

Then the Lord put both the man and his

wife in a gar-den to live. The Lord laid out that gar-den, and plant-ed all the trees in it. He gave it the name of E-den. There has not been since so fine a gar-den as that was in all the world. It had in it all kinds of fruits and flow-ers. All oth-er gar-dens have been laid out and made by men, and they could not do as the Lord did, nor at all like it.

Of the fruit of all the trees but one in that gar-den the man Ad-am and his wife Eve were told that they might eat. But of the fruit of that one tree the Lord told them they should not eat. In the day you taste of it, said he, you shall die. God was very good to give them the fruit of all the trees but one; and they were both hap-py, and had no wish to do what the Lord had told them they should not do.

At the end of six days all the works of God were done; and he said that the next day should be a day of rest. And so it was, and so it has been, and so it must be till the end of time.

There are six days in each week in which men may work, and in which boys and girls may play. Then comes a day of rest, in which no kind of work ought to be done,

and on which it is not right to play. On that day we ought to go to church, and sing hymns of praise, and read God's word, and call up-on his name.

That day has been known by many names. The best name for it is The Lord's Day; for it is HIS, and he made it.

HYMN.

The Sab-bath is a day of rest
Which, when God made the world, he blest;
A day of joy and sacred peace
On which all toil and labor cease.

Let us de-vote this ho-ly day
His will to learn and to o-bey;
So shall he hear us when we raise
Our hymns of grat-i-tude and praise.

Fa-ther! in whom our hopes con-fide,
Whose power de-fends, whose pre-cepts guide;
In life our trust, in death our friend,
Glo-ry be thine till time shall end.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON II.

1. What was the name of the first woman?
2. Who gave her that name?
3. What did Adam say when Eve appeared?
4. Where did Adam and Eve first live?

5. Who put them in the garden?
6. Who laid out that garden and planted the trees in it?
7. By what name was that garden called?
8. Who gave it that name?
9. What kind of a garden was it?
10. What grew in that garden?
11. By whom are all other gardens planted?
12. What were Adam and Eve told they might eat?
13. Who told them that?
14. Of what were they forbidden to eat?
15. What did the Lord say would happen if they did eat of that tree?
16. Were they happy in the garden of Eden?
17. What had they no wish to do?
18. Was not the Lord kind to give them the fruit of all the trees but one?
19. When were God's works of creation all done?
20. What did he then say?
21. Has there been a weekly day of rest ever since?
22. How long will there continue to be a weekly day of rest?
23. How many days in the week have we for work and play?
24. Do you know the names of the days of the week?
25. What may not be done on the Sabbath?
26. What ought we to do on that day?
27. Tell me some of the names by which that day is known.
28. What is the best name for it?
29. Do you know any passage of Scripture in which it is called the Lord's Day?

LESSON THIRD.

SIN AND DEATH.

ONE day Eve was tempt-ed to take of the fruit of the tree of which the Lord had said, Ye shall not eat. She saw that the tree was good for food, and in an e-vil hour put forth her hand, and took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to Ad-am, and he did eat al-so.

Soon they both heard the voice of the Lord. It was in the cool of the day, and they tried to hide where God could not find them. But that was in vain, for he sees and knows all things.

When the Lord said, What have you done? they both felt bad, but did not own their fault, nor ask for par-don. Thus it was that sin first came in-to this world.

And God sent a curse up-on the earth, so that it should bring forth weeds and thorns; and he told Ad-am that in the sweat of his face he should till the ground, and earn bread to eat. He told them both that they should die, and that their bod-ies should go back to the dust from which they were

made. Thus it was that death came in-to this world, and from that time to die has been the lot of all.

Then the Lord drove them both out from the gar-den of E-den, to till the ground, from which they were to get their food, un-til the time should come for them to die. And God put a sword at the gate of the gar-den of E-den, so that they could not go back.

We may be sure it was a sad day for them when they left their home to see it no more, and went out to earn their bread in the wide world. Then they felt how bad a thing it is to sin, and to do that which God has said, Ye shall not do.

But God was good to them e-ven then. Though they were to leave E-den, and must soon die, yet he made to them the prom-ise of a Sav-iour, who is Christ the Lord, who should in due time come in-to the world and die for them. By him the curse was to be taken a-way, and they might be saved. We too may be saved from our sins by Jesus Christ.

HYMN.

How sad our state by na-ture is!

Our sin, how deep its stains!

And Sa-tan binds our cap-tive souls

Fast in his sla-vish chains.

But there's a voice of sov'reign grace
Sounds from the sa-cred word:
Ho! ye de-spair-ing sin-ners, come
And trust a faith-ful Lord.

My soul o-beys the gra-cious call,
And runs to this re-lief;
I would be-lieve thy prom-ise, Lord;
O help my un-be-lief!

QUESTIONS ON LESSON III.

1. What was Eve tempted to do?
2. Do you know who tempted her?
3. Who tempts us to sin against God?
4. What did Eve see?
5. What did she then do?
6. To whom did she give the fruit?
7. What did Adam do?
8. What did they then hear?
9. At what time of the day was it?
10. What is meant by the cool of the day?
11. What did they try to do?
12. Did they succeed in hiding themselves?
13. Why could they not succeed?
14. What thus came into our world?
15. What do we call doing what God has forbidden?
16. What did the Lord say to them?
17. How did they feel when he asked this?
18. Did they own their fault and ask pardon?
19. What did God then send upon the earth?
20. What did he say the earth should bring forth?

21. Were there no thorns or thistles before this?
22. What did the Lord tell Adam?
23. What does hard work produce?
24. What did he tell them both?
25. Where did he say their bodies should go?
26. What was thus introduced into this world?
27. What has been the lot of all from that time?
28. Must every body die?
29. What did the Lord then do?
30. Why could they not get back into the garden of Eden?
31. What is said of the day when they left their home?
32. What did they then feel?
33. Who was good to them even then?
34. What promise did he make to them?
35. What was the Saviour to do?
36. What is the Saviour called?
37. Who else may be saved by Jesus Christ?



LESSON FOURTH.

CAIN AND ABEL.

AD-AM and Eve had two sons; their names were Cain and A-bel. In some things they were both a-like. Each came in-to the world, as we did, with a na-ture prone to sin. No doubt they both knew of the prom-ise of a Sav-iour, and were taught how to pray to God. Both of them were taught



CAIN KILLING ABEL.

to work, and thus, like their father, to earn their bread by the sweat of their face. Cain was a farm-er; A-bel was a shep-herd. God was good to both, and had the same love for Cain that he had for A-bel.

In some things they were not at all a-like. A-bel was good, and tried to serve God, and God was pleased with him; but Cain did not care for his Ma-ker, nor mind what had been told him about Je-sus Christ, who had

been prom-ised as a Sav-iour of all who had faith in him. A-bel had faith in Christ as a Sav-iour to come, but Cain had not.

And Cain did not love his broth-er. He hated him, not be-cause A-bel had done him any harm, but be-cause God loved him. O how wick-ed that was. It is wrong to hate any one; but to hate a broth-er is much worse; and to hate him be-cause he is good, is worst of all.

And it came to pass one day, when they were in the field, that Cain was ver-y an-gry, and, in a fit of pas-sion, killed his broth-er A-bel.

God, who sees all things, saw him do it. In those days the Lord spoke to men with a voice that they could hear, and he spoke to Cain and said, What hast thou done? and where is A-bel thy broth-er?

God knew what he had done, and he knew where A-bel was, for he said, His blood cries to me from the ground. But the Lord then spoke to Cain to make him stop and think of what he had done. But Cain would not own his crime, and he told the Lord a lie. He said, I know not where my broth-er is.

Then the Lord was an-gry with Cain, not

on-ly be-cause he had killed A-bel, but be-cause he had said what was not true. And the Lord pun-ished him, and put a mark up-on him.

Then Cain went out, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of E-den.

HYMN.

The world can nev-er give
The bliss for which we sigh;
'Tis not the whole of life to live,
Nor all of death to die.

There is a death whose pang
Out-lasts the fleet-ing breath:
O what e-ter-nal hor-rors hang
A-round the sec-ond death!

Thou God of truth and grace!
Teach us that death to shun;
Lest we be ban-ished from thy face,
Forev-er-more un-done.



QUESTIONS ON LESSON IV.

1. What were the names of Adam's two sons?
2. Were they both alike in some things?
3. With what kind of a nature were they born?
4. Who else came into the world with a nature prone to evil?

5. What did they both know?
6. What were they taught to do?
7. Who do you think taught them?
8. Were they taught to work also?
9. How did they earn their bread?
10. What was Cain's business?
11. What was Abel's?
12. Who is said to have been good to both?
13. What was Abel's character?
14. What did Abel try to do?
15. Who was pleased with him?
16. What is said of Cain?
17. Who had been promised as a Saviour?
18. Who had faith in Christ as a Saviour to come?
19. Had Cain the same faith?
20. Who hated his brother?
21. Why did Cain hate his brother?
22. Was not that very wicked?
23. What then came to pass?
24. Where were they when this took place?
25. Who saw him kill his brother?
26. Who sees all things?
27. How did the Lord speak to men in those days?
28. What did the Lord say to Cain?
29. What did the Lord say of Abel's blood?
30. Why did the Lord speak thus to Cain?
31. What did Cain then do?
32. What did he say?
33. Why was the Lord angry with Cain?
34. What did the Lord do to him?
35. What did Cain then do?

LESSON FIFTH.

ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD.

IN those days men lived a great ma-ny more years than they do now. When Ad-am and Eve were a hund-red and thir-ty years old they had an-oth-er son, whose name was Seth.

Aft-er that they had more sons and daughters; and Ad-am died when he was nine hund-red and thir-ty years of age. We are not told when Eve died nor how old she was.

We do not know much a-bout the world in those ear-ly a-ges. A few of the men whose names we find in the Bi-ble were good and served the Lord. Seth was one of them; and E-noch, of whom it is said that he walked with God; that is, he did as God would have him do, and kept the law of the Lord. For the long space of three hund-red years did E-noch walk with God. He was like a bright light that shines in a dark place; and while most of those who were then up-on earth did not love nor fear God, E-noch's ways, it is said, pleased the Lord, and the Lord told him so. Heb. xi, 5.

There are some things in the life of this

good man that all ought to know. One of them is the fact that he had no Bi-ble, such as we have, to be a guide for him and to teach him the path of life.

Then we must bear in mind that he had but few good men with whom to talk, and pray, and praise God. He was not blest as we are with friends to help him on his way, but he had the grace of God, which all may have, and by which all of us may serve and please God as he did.

But now I must tell you a strange thing. E-noch did not die. When he was three hund-red and six-ty-five years old it is said, "He was not for God took him;" that is, as Saint Paul tells us, God took him up, a-live as he was, to dwell with him in that world of joy which is called heav-en.

If you know how ma-ny days there are in a year you will not for-get how old E-noch was when the Lord took him. Just as ma-ny days as there are in a year, just so ma-ny years did E-noch live.

E-noch had a son whose life was lon-ger than that of an-y oth-er man. His name was Me-thu-se-lah. He liv-ed nine hund-red and six-ty-nine years. He was the grand-fa-ther of No-ah.

HYMN.

Thou God of all suf-fi-cient grace,
 My God in Christ thou art;
 O may I walk be-fore thy face
 Till I am pure in heart.

Until, trans-formed by faith di-vine,
 I gain that love un-known,
 And bright in all thine im-age shine,
 By put-ting on thy Son.

 QUESTIONS ON LESSON V.

1. What is said of the men who lived in those days?
2. What happened when Adam and Eve were a hundred and thirty years old?
3. What was the name of that son?
4. How old was Adam when Seth was born?
5. After that what happened?
6. Do you know how old Adam was when he died?
7. What is said about the age and death of Eve?
8. What do we know about the world in those early ages?
9. What is said of a few of those who lived then?
10. Mention the names of two good men.
11. What is said of Enoch?
12. Whose son was Seth?
13. Can you tell the name of Enoch's father?
 (Gen. v, 18.)
14. What is it to walk with God?
15. How long did Enoch walk with God?
16. What was he like?

17. What is said of most of those then living?
18. How did Enoch know that his ways pleased God?
19. What book have we that Enoch had not?
20. What is the Bible designed to be and to teach?
21. What is said of Enoch's religious companions?
22. What had Enoch?
23. May we all have that grace?
24. What strange thing happened to Enoch?
25. What is said of him in the Book of Genesis?
26. How old was Enoch at this time?
27. What is meant by the phrase, God took him?
28. Do you know how many days there are in a year?
29. What was the name of Enoch's son?
30. What is said of him?
31. How old was Methuselah when he died?
32. Who was Methuselah's grandson?

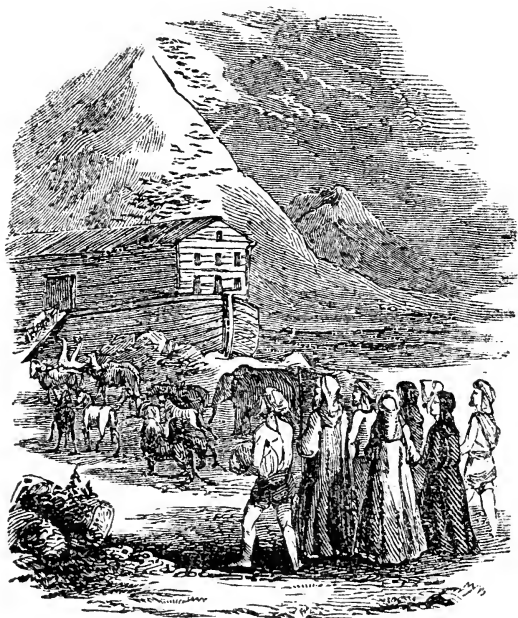
LESSON SIXTH.

THE GENERAL DELUGE.

NO-AH was the son of La-mech, and La-mech was the son of the old-est man.

No-ah had three sons. Their names were Shem, Ham, and Ja-pheth. Ja-pheth was the old-est, but Shem is put first be-cause through him was to come the prom-ised Sav-iour of the world.

And now we come to a dark time. Men



had grown so bad that God said, I will send a flood and drown them all. Not on-ly were the acts of men bad, but all the thoughts of their hearts. They were so bad that it is said that God was grieved that he had made man on the earth.

And the Lord said, I will de-stroy man from the face of the earth, and not on-ly man, but the beasts, and the fowls, and the birds.

Then he told No-ah what he was a-bout to do, for No-ah was a just man, and, like

E-noch, he walked with God, and it is said that he found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

Then God said to him, Build an ark, in which you may be safe when the flood comes up-on the earth. He told him how to make it, of what kind of wood it should be built, and what should be its size and shape.

And No-ah did as he was told.

Then when the ark, like a great ship, was made, God said to him, Come in-to the ark, thou and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee. He told him to take with him al-so, two of all sorts of all liv-ing things, and food for them all.

For now, said the Lord, I do bring a flood of wa-ters up-on the earth to de-destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life; and all things that are in the earth shall die.

And No-ah did so. They all went in-to the ark, and the Lord, it is said, shut them in, and of course shut out all those who had not sought nor found grace in the sight of the Lord. They might have found this grace as No-ah did, but they chose to walk in the paths of sin.

And now, as God had said, the rain began to fall. Day aft-er day, and night aft-er night, for the space of for-ty days, near-ly six

long weeks, the flood was on the in-crease on the earth, which at last was all one vast sea. Those who were in the ark were safe. Those who were not, of men and beasts, were all drowned, even as the Lord had said.

HYMN.

Deep are the wounds which sin has made;
Where shall the sin-ner find a cure?
In vain, a-las, is na-ture's aid;
The work ex-ceeds her ut-most power.

But can no sov-er-eign balm be found,
And is no kind phy-si-cian nigh,
To ease the pain, and heal the wound,
Ere life and hope for-ev-er fly?

There is a great Phy-si-cian near;
Look up, O faint-ing soul, and live;
See, in his heav-en-ly smiles, ap-pear
Such help as na-ture can-not give.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON VI.

1. What was the name of the father of Noah?
2. Whose son was Lamech?
3. How ma-ny sons had Noah?
4. What were the names of Noah's sons?
5. Which was the oldest of Noah's sons?
6. Why is Shem put first?
7. Who promised that a Saviour should come?

8. To whom was that promise made ?
9. What do we now come to in this history ?
10. Why did God threaten to send a deluge or flood ?
11. Were men's thoughts as well as actions wicked ?
12. What is said about the Lord's being grieved ?
13. What did God then say ?
14. What besides man was to be destroyed ?
15. To whom did he make known what he intended to do ?
16. What sort of a man was Noah ?
17. In what did Noah resemble Enoch ?
18. What did Noah find ?
19. What did God tell him to do ?
20. What directions did the Lord give to Noah ?
21. What did Noah do ?
22. What was the ark like ?
23. What did the Lord then say to Noah ?
24. Who besides Noah were to go into the ark ?
25. What did he take besides living creatures ?
26. Who shut them all in the ark ?
27. What is said of those who were not in the ark ?
28. What had they not sought ?
29. Why did they not find grace in the sight of the Lord ?
30. What happened after the door of the ark was shut ?
31. How long did the waters of the flood continue to increase ?
32. What did the whole earth at length become ?
33. Who were all safe ?
34. What became of those who were not in the ark ?

LESSON SEVENTH.

THE OLIVE LEAF AND THE RAINBOW.

So great was the flood, and so long did the rain fall, that not only was the earth one great sea, but the top of the high-est mountain was covered. It was fifteen cu-bits, or twenty-two and a half feet under water when the flood was at its height. It continued in this state a hundred and ten days, which, added to the forty during which the rain fell, make one hundred and fifty.

At the end of this time God made a great wind to pass over the earth, and the waters began to dry up.

In a few days more the dry land began to be seen by those who were in the ark as they looked out of its windows. The first land they saw was, of course, the tops of the high mountains. Then Noah sent out a raven, which flew about and did not come back.

A dove, which was sent forth at the same time, soon flew back to the ark and was taken in. Poor thing! the sight of the world was so dismal that she could not

bear it. At the end of a week she was sent out a-gain, and at night came back with an olive leaf in her mouth. The sight of that leaf cheered the hearts of those who had been so long shut up in the ark, as by it they knew that the flood had dried up be-low the tops of the trees.

In all ages the olive has been used as the emblem of peace; and the dove, from the time of No-ah, has been re-gard-ed with fa-vor and love. Here is a beau-ti-ful verse which you may get by heart:

When first the Spir-it left the throne,
He took the semb-lance of a dove;
A sym-bol cho-sen to make known
His puri-ty, his grace and love.

In a few days more they all came out of the ark. The first thing No-ah did was to build an al-tar, and give praise to the God who had been with them in the ark. Then the Lord said, The earth shall nev-er a-gain be de-stroyed by a flood. While the earth re-main-eth, seed-time and har-vest, and cold and heat, and sum-mer and win-ter, and day and night shall not cease. In to-ken of this prom-ise God said, I do set my bow in the cloud; and when we see a rain-bow, it

ought to re-mind us of God's just-ice in send-ing a flood to pun-ish the wick-ed, and of his mer-cy in de-clar-ing that nev-er shall the race of men be thus de-stroyed a-gain.

The life of No-ah was the lon-gest of any re-cord-ed in the Bi-ble, ex-cept that of Me-thu-se-lah. He liv-ed nine hund-red and fif-ty years.

HYMN.

Glo-ry to God a-bove!

The wa-ters soon will cease;
For lo! the swift re-turn-ing dove
Brings home the sign of peace.

Though storms his face ob-scure,
And dan-gers threat-en loud,
Je-ho-vah's cov-e-nant is sure,
His bow is in the cloud.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON VII.

1. How great and universal was the flood?
2. How many cubits was the water above the highest mountain?
3. How many feet in fifteen cubits?
4. How long did the flood continue at its height?
5. How many days from the first rain to the end of the flood?
6. What passed over the earth at this time?

7. Who sent this wind?
8. What effect had it?
9. What began to be seen in a few days?
10. Who saw the dry land?
11. How did they see out of the ark?
12. What was the first land they saw?
13. What did Noah send out of the ark?
14. What became of the raven?
15. What was sent forth at the same time?
16. What did the dove do?
17. Why did the dove come back to the ark?
18. What happened at the end of a week?
19. What did she bring with her on her return?
20. Why did the olive leaf cheer the hearts of those in the ark?
21. Of what is the olive an emblem?
22. How is the dove regarded?
23. Can you repeat the verse about the Holy Spirit?
24. What happened soon after?
25. What was Noah's first act on coming out of the ark?
26. What did the Lord then say?
27. What token of his promise did God then give?
28. Of what promise is the rainbow a token?
29. Of what should the rainbow remind us?
30. How many years did Noah live?
31. Is his the longest life mentioned in the Bible?

LESSON EIGHTH.

THE TOWER OF BABEL.

AND now we look on a new world. When No-ah and those who were with him came forth from the ark, they found that the flood had made a great change in all things. The world was not as it came at first from the hands of God who made it, but bore the marks of the curse which fell on it for the sins of men.

And the Lord met with No-ah and blessed him and his sons. He gave to them the same rights which, at first, he gave to Ad-am, and said, The fear of you and the dread of you shall be on all the beasts of the earth, and all the fowls of the air, and on all the fish of the sea.

He al-so gave them leave to eat flesh; for up to this time men had lived on fruits and things that grow in the earth. But now God said, All things that live I give to you for food.

At this time, too, the Lord made it a law that he who kills a man shall be put to death. He said, He who sheds man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed.

At length the time came for No-ah to die. He lived after the flood three hund-red and fif-ty years; and as he was six hund-red years of age when he went in-to the ark, he was, of course, nine hund-red and fif-ty when he died.

For a great ma-n-y years the sons of No-ah dwelt in the plains of Shi-nar. There they and their chil-dren in-creased in number, and, in course of time, be-came a great na-tion.

In a few years af-ter the death of No-ah, they be-came proud and threw off the fear of God. They be-came ver-y wick-ed, almost as bad as those who lived be-fore the flood.

At length, a-bout two hund-red and fif-ty years af-ter the death of No-ah, they a-greed to build a high tow-er. They said, Let us make brick and burn them, and let us build a tow-er whose top may reach to heav-en. This shows that they did not know much a-bout the shape of the world, and that they had fool-ish no-tions.

Some think that they meant this tow-er to be a place for an i-dol which they might wor-ship in-stead of the true God. They had built up the tow-er to a great height,

when God, it is said, came down to see it. And then a very strange thing was done. God caused them, while at their work, to speak many lan-gua-ges.

Up to this time they were all of one speech; but now they spoke in so ma-ny and such strange tongues, that they could not tell what one an-oth-er meant. This broke up their un-ion, and they left off their work on the tow-er. Then they fell in-to par-ties with chiefs at the head of each, and some went one way, and some an-oth-er.

In pro-cess of time the chil-dren of Shem oc-cu-pied Asia; the chil-dren of Ham Af-ri-ca; and the chil-dren of Ja-pheth Eu-rope.

The name of that tow-er is called Ba-bel, be-cause there the Lord did con-found the lan-gua-ges of all the earth, and scat-ter them a-broad on the face of all the earth.

HYMN.

My days are short-er than a span,
A lit-tle point my life ap-pears;
How frail at best is dy-ing man!
How vain are all his hopes and fears!

Vain his am-bi-tion, noise, and show;
Vain are the cares which rack his mind.
He heaps up treas-ures mixed with woe,
And dies and leaves them all be-hind.

O be a no-bler por-tion mine!
 My God, I bow be-fore thy throne!
 Earth's fleet-ing treas-ures I re-sign,
 And fix my hope on thee a-lone.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON VIII.

1. On what do we now look?
2. What did Noah find when he came out of the ark?
3. What had the deluge done?
4. What was not as it came from the hands of its Maker?
5. Of what did the world bear the marks?
6. Why was the world cursed?
7. Who then met with Noah and his sons?
8. What did the Lord do to them?
9. What rights did he give to Noah and his sons?
10. What did he say?
11. What did he also give them leave to do?
12. On what had people lived previous to this time?
13. What did God say on this subject?
14. What law did the Lord now make?
15. Can you repeat what he said?
16. For what did the time at length come?
17. How long after the flood did Noah live?
18. How old was he when he entered the ark?
19. How old was he when he died?
20. Where did the sons of Noah live after his death?
21. What is said of them while on the plains of Shinar?
22. How wicked did they become?

23. What did they agree to build?
24. How long was this after the death of Noah?
25. Of what did they propose to build the tower?
26. How did they intend to procure bricks?
27. How high did they design to make their tower?
28. Could such a thing be done?
29. What is the opinion of some on this subject?
30. Who came down to see the tower?
31. What miracle was then performed?
32. Up to this time how many languages were spoken in the world?
33. What broke up their union?
34. What did they then fall into?
35. What part of the world did the children of Shem occupy?
36. Of Ham?
37. Of Japheth?
38. What was the name of that unfinished tower called?
39. Why was it called Babel?

LESSON NINTH.

ABRAM AND LOT.

THE first king of whom we hear was Nim-rod. By him was built the city of Bab-y-lon, on a piece of land near the tower of Ba-bel, in the plains of Shi-nar. To this

day it is said there is to be seen a mound which is thought to be the re-mains of that build-ing.

And now there is a long time in which there is no ac-count of what took place in the world. We pass on to the days of A-bram. He was born two years after the death of No-ah, in a cit-y called Ur, but we do not hear of A-bram un-til he was more than three-score and ten years of age. It is thought that he was at first an i-dol-a-ter, as were all the men a-mong whom he lived. They wor-shipped the stars.

By some means, we know not how, A-bram was taught to know the true God; and to the end of his life he had faith in him and served him. He is called in the Bi-ble the fa-ther of the faith-ful and the friend of God.

One day, while A-bram was yet in Ur, the cit-y of his birth, the Lord made known to him his will that he should leave his home and his friends and go to a strange land, of which I, said the Lord, will show thee. He knew not where he was to go, and did not stop to ask. He knew that God would lead him right and take care of him.

So he went forth with his wife, whose name was Sa-ra, and Lot, his neph-ew. On their way, with their flocks, they came to a place called Ha-ran. Here they made a stop and put up tents in which to live. They thought, at first, that this was the spot where God meant them to live.

In a short time the Lord made known his will that they should not stay in Ha-ran; that was not the land of which he had told them. Then God gave to A-bram the promise that he should be the father of a great nation, and that in him should all the families of the earth be blessed. That promise referred to Je-sus Christ.

In the New Tes-ta-ment we are told that when Je-sus was in our world he said to the Jews, Your father A-bram was glad to see my day. He saw the day of Christ, not as those who were on earth saw it when Christ was a-mong men; but he saw it by faith. He had faith in the promise of God, and that gave him as great joy as if Christ had al-rea-dy come, for he knew and felt that God's word was true and could not fail.

HYMN.

We've no a-bid-ing cit-y here ;
 We seek a cit-y out of sight ;
 Zi-on its name ; the Lord is there,
 It shines with ev-er-last-ing light.

O sweet a-bode of peace and love,
 When pil-grims freed from toil are blest ;
 Had I the swift wings of the dove,
 I'd fly to thee and be at rest.

But hush, my soul ! nor dare re-pine ;
 The time that God ap-ports is best ;
 While here, to do his will be mine,
 And his to fix my time of rest.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON IX.

1. Who was the first king of whom we read in the Bible ?
2. What city did he build ?
3. Where was Babylon situated ?
4. What may be seen even to the present day ?
5. Of what is that mound thought to be the remains ?
6. What is there of which we have no account.
7. To what do we pass on ?
8. In what year of the world was Abram born ? (2008.)
9. How long was that after the death of Noah ?
10. What was the name of the city in which Abram was born ?
11. How old was he when we first hear of him ?

12. What were the people among whom Abram lived?
13. What did they worship?
14. Was Abram an idolater?
15. Whom was Abram taught to know?
16. What was Abram's character to the end of his life?
17. What is Abram called in the Bible?
18. What did the Lord tell Abram to do?
19. Where was Abram at this time?
20. Did Abram obey God?
21. Why did he go forth?
22. Who went with him?
23. What was Abram's wife's name?
24. What was the name of the place where they first stopped?
25. In what did they live?
26. What did they think at first?
27. Why did they not stay in Haran?
28. What promise did God then give to Abram?
29. What did that promise refer to?
30. What are we told in the New Testament?
31. How did Abram see the day of Christ?
32. In what had Abram faith?
33. What did he know and feel?

LESSON TENTH.

SODOM AND GOMORRAH.

It was at the time when God made the great prom-is-es to A-bram that he changed his name. This was done by add-ing to it the let-ter H. It was at first A-bram; now and ev-er after it is to be A-bra-ham.

When A-bra-ham had been but a few years in the land of Ca-naan there was a great fam-ine, and he and his fam-i-ly were in want of bread. This is the first fam-ine of which we have any ac-count. Mo-ses says it was a griev-ous fam-ine. But the good man's faith in God did not fail. He knew that all things work to-geth-er for good to them that love God.

All through his life, in each place where he dwelt, or pitched his tent for e-ver so short a time, A-bra-ham built an al-tar and wor-shiped God. He did this when all around him wor-shiped i-dols. And God con-tin-ued to bless him; he grew rich in flocks and herds, which were at that time the source of wealth.

And now was seen one of the e-vils that a-rise from great rich-es. The herds-men, that is, the men who took care of the cat-tle of A-bra-ham, quar-reled with those who had charge of the cat-tle which be-longed to his neph-ew Lot. A-bra-ham was a man of peace, and when he heard of it he said, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, be-tween us. There is room for us both. If thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou de-part to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

The choice be-ing thus giv-en to Lot, he left his un-cle, and took with him all that he had, and went and dwelt near two cit-ies, the peo-ple of which were ver-y wick-ed. The names of those cit-ies were Sod-om and Go-mor-rah.

In a short time af-ter he had left A-bra-ham, Lot and his fam-i-ly were made pris-on-ers by a band of rob-bers. Their goods were ta-ken from them, and they were led a-way as slaves. A-bra-ham heard of it, and armed him-self and his serv-ants and went in pur-suit. He soon came up with the rob-bers, fought them, and made them give up the spoils they had stol-en and re-lease their pris-on-ers. But Lot did not live a great

while in the land of which he had made choice. The men who lived there were very wick-ed, and God de-ter-mined to de-destroy them. Two an-gels came to warn Lot to leave the place, which he did with all his fam-i-ly. They were told to flee as fast as they could, and not e-ven to look be-hind them. Lot's wife did look be-hind her to see the end of the cit-ies of the plain which were de-stroyed by fire from heav-en; and as she gazed upon the burn-ing cit-ies she be-came a pil-lar of salt. Je-sus, when he speaks of this sad af-fair says to us all, *Re-mem-ber Lot's wife.*

HYMN.

Like the ea-gle, up-ward, sun-ward,
 Let my soul in faith be borne;
 Calm-ly gaz-ing, sky-ward, sun-ward,
 Let mine eye, un-shrink-ing, turn.

Where the cross, God's love re-veal-ing,
 Sets the fet-tered spir-it free,
 Where it sheds its wond-rous heal-ing,
 There, my soul, thy rest shall be.

O may I no lon-ger, dream-ing,
 I-dly waste my gold-en day,
 But, each pre-cious hour re-deem-ing,
 Up-ward, on-ward, press my way.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON X.

1. Who changed Abram's name?
2. At what time was this change made?
3. How was it done?
4. What happened when Abraham had been a few years in Canaan?
5. Of what were he and his family in want?
6. What is said of this famine?
7. What does Moses call it?
8. What is said of Abraham's faith at this time?
9. What did he know?
10. Can you tell where that passage of Scripture is found?
11. What did Abraham do in all places where he tarried?
12. What did those around him frequently worship?
13. What did God continue to do?
14. In what did Abraham grow rich?
15. What was the source of riches at that time.
16. What is next seen?
17. Who quarreled?
18. What did Abraham say when he heard of it?
19. Did he give Lot the choice of the land?
20. What did Lot then do?
21. What were the names of the cities where Lot dwelt?
22. What happened shortly after this?
23. What was taken from them?
24. How were they led away?
25. What did Abraham do when he heard of it?
26. What did he do to the robbers.

27. Did Lot live a great while in that land?
28. What was the character of the men who lived there?
29. Who determined to destroy them?
30. For what purpose did angels come to Lot?
31. What were they told not to do?
32. Who did look behind?
33. What became of her?
34. What does Jesus say about Lot's wife?
35. Do you know where that is said? (Luke xvii, 32.)

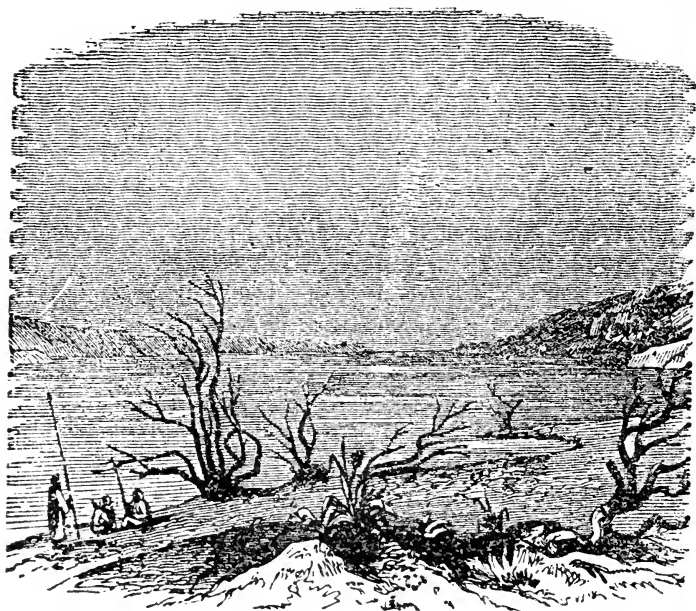


LESSON ELEVENTH.

THE DEAD SEA.

IN the south-east part of Ca-naan, or the Ho-ly Land, as it is called, is a large lake of wa-ter known by the name of the Dead Sea. It is a-bout for-ty miles long, and from eight to ten wide. The wa-ter is ver-y salt and bit-ter.

On the banks of the lake are trees which bear a kind of fruit known as the ap-ples of Sod-om. These ap-ples are yel-low when ripe, and look like or-anges; but they are not fit to eat, and when squeezed in the hand are found to be hol-low. The land a^round the lake is rough and bar-ren.



THE DEAD SEA SEEN FROM THE NORTH.

Thorns and stunt-ed shrubs grow there; but hard-ly any green thing is to be seen. It looks like a place on which rests the curse of God; and those who have been to see it say that they feel when there as if they were on a spot which will ev-er be a proof of one great e-vent of which we read in the Bi-ble.

That e-vent is the fact that God sent fire from heav-en, and de-stroyed the ci-ty of

Sod-om and oth-er cit-ies known as the Cit-ies of the Plain. This is the spot on which they once stood. It is now cov-ered by this lake.

All those who lived in those cit-ies were sud-den-ly de-stroyed, ex-cept on-ly Lot and his two daugh-ters. His wife, as we saw, might have been saved; but she did not mind what the an-gels had told her, and stopped to look back. The sons and sons-in-law of Lot were in-vit-ed to flee with him that they too might be saved, but they would not. They made sport of the good man, and did not be-lieve what he said. He seemed as one that mocked.

Like the men to whom E-noch preached, or those who heard the warn-ing voice of No-ah, they gave no heed to Lot. Like them how ma-n-y, in our own day, hear the word of the Lord as it is preached from time to time, but heed it not!

Like that sud-den ru-in which fell on the men of that day will it be when the Son of man, Je-sus, comes to judge the world. So he him-self tells us. He will come with clouds, and ev-er-y eye shall see him; and all who have not re-pent-ed will weep and wail when he com-eth,

He will come at a time when men think not of him. As it was in that day, they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they plant-ed, they build-ed; and at an hour when they thought not, the storm of fire fell up-on them. So will it be when the Son of man shall come to judge the world. Then the whole earth will be on fire. All things in it will be burnt up. Then those who do not know and fear God will be turned in-to hell, while those who love him will be safe and hap-py, and so re-main for-ev-er.

HYMN.

Day of Judg-ment—day of won-ders!
Hark! the trum-pet's aw-ful sound,
Loud-er than ten thou-sand thun-ders,
Shakes the vast cre-a-tion round.
How the sum-mons
Will the sin-ner's heart con-found!

See the Judge our na-ture wear-ing,
Clothed in maj-es-ty di-vine.
You, who long for his ap-pear-ing,
Then shall say, "This God is mine!"
Gra-cious Sav-iour,
Own me in that day for thine!

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XI.

1. What is the land of Canaan sometimes called?
2. What is the name of that lake of which we read?
3. In what part of the Holy Land is it?
4. What is the length of the lake?
5. What is its width?
6. What is said of the water of the lake?
7. What grow on the banks of the lake?
8. What kind of fruit do they bear?
9. What do these apples resemble in appearance?
10. Why are they not fit to eat?
11. What is the character of the land around the lake?
12. What grow there?
13. What are seldom seen?
14. What does the place look like?
15. What do travelers who have visited it say?
16. Of what event does it seem to be a proof?
17. What once stood where the lake now is?
18. What became of those who lived in those cities?
19. Who only were saved?
20. Why was not Lot's wife saved?
21. Who were invited to flee with Lot?
22. Why were they not saved?
23. What did Lot seem like to them?
24. How was it with the men to whom Enoch preached?
25. How with those to whom Noah preached?
26. How is it with many who hear the Gospel now?
27. How will it be when Jesus Christ comes to judge the world?

28. Who tells us about these things?
29. How will Christ come?
30. At what time will he come?
31. How were men employed when fire fell from heaven on Sodom?
32. What will be on fire at that day?
33. What will become of those who do not fear God?
34. Who will be safe and happy forever?



LESSON TWELFTH.

THE TRIAL OF ABRAHAM'S FAITH.

A-BOUT a year after the sad end of the cities of the plain, Isaac was born. He was the son whom God had promised to A-bra-ham, and he was very dear both to him and to Sa-rah, his moth-er.

And it came to pass, says Mo-ses, that God did tempt or try A-bra-ham. A voice came to him which he knew to be the voice of the Lord; and it said, Take now thy son, thine on-ly son whom thou lov-est, and put him to death! How strange that was! How could it be? And how many objections might be made?

But A-bra-ham did not stop to rea-son. He knew that what God di-rects to be done

must be right. So early the next morning he and I-saac go forth, and at length reach the spot of which God told them.

It seems that I-saac did not know why they had come there. He thought it was to sac-ri-fice a lamb, and he said, My fa-ther, here I see the fire, and the wood, but where is the lamb? O what a ques-tion that was! And his fa-ther said, God will pro-vide a lamb.

But now the time came when I-saac must be told that *he* was the lamb to be put to death. And when he knew that such was the com-mand of God, he did not re-fuse, but al-lowed his fa-ther to lay him on the al-tar and to bind him there.

And now, as we may well sup-pose, a-mid their tears the last fare-well is spo-ken, the last kiss is giv-en. They think they are to part now, no more to meet un-til they shall meet in heav-en. A-bra-ham takes the knife, and lifts his hand to slay his son.

Just then God's voice is heard, which bids him stay his hand. The Lord ac-cepts the will for the deed, and says, Now I know that thou fear-est God, since thou hast not with-held thy son, thine on-ly son, from me. A glad hour was that for them

both, and they went home full of thanks and praises to God.

Two things were shown by this act of A-bra-ham. The first was the pow-er of faith. It was be-cause he did be-lieve in God that A-bra-ham was a-ble to go forth and to give up his dear son to die. And hence we learn what true faith, the faith of A-bra-ham, is. It is a clear as-sur-ance that God will do all things well; and it shows itself by do-ing what God tells us to do.

Then a-gain, this tri-al of A-bra-ham's faith was to show him the man-ner in which, in due time, God's prom-ise would be ful-filled, and all the fam-i-lies of the earth would be blessed in him. As A-bra-ham was will-ing to give his son to die, so in due time our heav-en-ly Fa-ther spared not his own Son, but free-ly gave him up for us all. To those who had the writ-ings of Mos-es there was seen, in this act of A-bra-ham, a fig-ure of the of-fer-ing up of Christ for the sins of the world. It was but a fig-ure. To us God has made known the re-al-ity; and to us there comes a voice call-ing our at-ten-tion a-way from I-saac, and say-ing, Be-hold the Lamb of God, who ta-keth a-way the sins of the world.

HYMN.

Fa-ther of Je-sus Christ, my Lord,
My Sav-iour, and my Head;
I trust in thee, whose pow-er-ful word
Hath raised him from the dead.

Thy rec-ord, Lord, I would be-lieve;
In A-bra-ham's foot-steps tread,
That I may gra-cious-ly re-ceive
The Christ, the prom-ised seed.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XII.

1. How long after the destruction of Sodom was Isaac born?
2. Whose son was Isaac?
3. What was his mother's name?
4. To whom was Isaac very dear?
5. What does Moses say then came to pass?
6. Whose voice came to Abraham?
7. What did the voice say?
8. What is said of that voice?
9. Why did not Abraham stop to reason?
10. When did Abraham and Isaac go forth?
11. Who told them of the place where the sacrifice was to be made?
12. For what object did Isaac think they went there?
13. What did he then say?
14. What reply did Abraham make?
15. When Isaac knew that *he* was the lamb, how did he act?

16. What may we well suppose then happened?
17. What do the father and son think?
18. What does Abraham then do?
19. What is heard just then?
20. What does that voice bid him do?
21. What is accepted by the Lord?
22. What does he then say?
23. What were their feelings then?
24. What is first mentioned as shown by this act of Abraham?
25. How was Abraham able to give up his son to die?
26. What is true faith?
27. How is it shown?
28. What was shown to Abraham by this trial of his faith?
29. What is said of our heavenly Father?
30. What was seen in this act of Abraham?
31. What has God made known to us?
32. What comes to us?
33. From what does it call us?
34. What does it say?



LESSON THIRTEENTH.

FIRST QUARTERLY REVISION.

WE have now been three months in our study of the Bible. For to-day's lesson we go back and re-view what has been learned. Some of the questions we now

ask are the same as have been asked before. Others will be found not so easy, and will require more study. To all of them you will find answers in the Bible if you look for them.

1. What was the state of the earth when it was first made? (Gen. i, 2.)
2. What was there on the face of the deep?
3. What moved on the face of the waters?
4. By what name did God call the dry land? (Gen. i, 10.)
5. What was the great light that God made to rule the day?
6. What do you call the lesser light?
7. Of what did God form man's body?
8. What reply did Adam make when the Lord said, Where art thou? (Gen. iii, 10.)
9. What did Eve say when the Lord said to her, What hast thou done?
10. Who made coats of skins for Adam and Eve? (Gen. iii, 21.)
11. What did Cain say when the Lord asked him, Where is Abel, thy brother?

12. What did Lam-ech say when he gave his son the name No-ah?
13. Whose son was Shem?
14. What oth-er sons had No-ah?
15. When, and in what words, did God make the first prom-ise of a Sav-iour? (Gen. iii, 15.)
16. Of what kind of wood was the ark made? (Gen. vi, 14.)
17. What was the length of the ark?
18. How old was No-ah when the flood came?
19. What did No-ah build when he came out of the ark?
20. What did the Lord say a-bout cold and heat, and day and night?
21. Will this world ev-er be de-stroyed a-gain by a flood? (Gen. viii, 22.)
22. What did God say of the fear and dread of No-ah and his sons?
23. Of what is the bow in the cloud a token?
24. Who was the fa-ther of A-bram? (Gen. xi, 27.)
25. What was the name of Lot's fa-ther?
26. In what cit-y was A-bram born?
27. What did God say he would do to those who blessed A-bram?

28. In-to what land did A-bram and Lot come?
29. In what di-rec-tion did Lot trav-el when he left A-bram?
30. What did A-bram build in He-bron?
31. State some of God's prom-is-es to A-bram?
32. How and by wh'om was A-bram's name changed? (Gen. xvii, 5.)
33. What rea-son does God give for the change of A-bram's name?
34. What land did God prom-ise to give to A-bra-ham?
35. Who changed the name of A-bra-ham's wife?
36. What change was made in her name?
37. Who prayed to the Lord to spare the men of Sod-om?
38. How old was A-bra-ham when his son I-saac was born?
39. What did A-bra-ham sac-ri-fice to the Lord in-stead of his son?
40. Who is the Lamb of God that ta-keth a-way the sins of the world? (John i, 29.)

HYMN.

Holy and reverend is the name

Of our eternal king.

Thrice holy Lord, the angels cry;

Thrice holy let us sing.

Holy is he in all his works,

And truth is his delight;

But sinners and their wicked ways

Shall perish from his sight.

The deepest reverence of the mind,

Pay, O my soul, to God;

Lift with thy hands a holy heart

To his sublime abode.

With sacred awe pronounce his name

Whom words nor thoughts can reach;

A broken heart shall please him more

Than the best forms of speech.

Thou holy God! preserve my soul

From all pollution free;

The pure in heart are thy delight,

And they thy face shall see.

LESSON FOURTEENTH.

THE DEATH OF ABRAHAM.

ISAAC had a brother older than himself, whose name was Ishmael. He became a great hunter, and a chief of a tribe of wandering Arabs. It is said that to this day the natives of Arabia talk of Ishmael as their first great chief, and we often read about Ishmaelites in the Bible; but the greater part of it relates to Isaac, who was the child of promise, and to his sons.

About four years after the great trial of Abraham's faith, his wife Sarah, the mother of Isaac, died. She was a good wife and a kind mother, and she is spoken of in the New Testament as a model for all good women. She had been the wife of Abraham sixty-two years, and had borne her share in all his joys and trials. He mourned and wept, the Bible says, when she died; and he bought of the sons of Heth a new cave, in which her body was laid.

Three years after this Isaac was married. His wife's name was Rebekah. She was the daughter of Bethuel, and one of the

longest chapters in the Bible is taken up with an account of this marriage.

And now we reach the hour when the good old Abraham must go the way of all the earth. His last years were spent in peace. At the close of a life full of trials and cares, it is good to look upon him as his end draws nigh. Like the sun, as he sets when the day is done, so "the father of the faithful and the friend of God" calmly sinks to his rest. But like the sun he shall rise again.

He was one hundred and seventy-five years old when he died, and his sons Isaac and Ishmael placed his body in the same cave where Sarah his wife was buried. This was in a field, near a place called Hebron.

Not a great deal that is interesting is found in the life of Isaac. He was a man of a meek and quiet spirit. His greatest honor was that he was chosen to be a type of Christ; and that in the act of Abraham, his father, when he went with him up the mount and bound him on the altar, there was seen a figure of the sacrifice in due time to be made for the sins of the world. As Isaac had done no wrong for which he was

to be put to death by the hand of his father, so in Christ there was found no guile. He was a lamb without spot—the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world. It was the same in both cases, that each was a willing victim. Isaac might have refused to die, or even to be bound on the altar; and Christ says, Lo, I come to do thy will. No man taketh my life from me. I have power to lay down my life, and I have power to take it again.

HYMN.

Come, let us sing the song of songs;
The saints in heaven began the strain;
The homage which to Christ belongs:
Worthy the Lamb, for he was slain!

Slain to redeem us by his blood,
To cleanse from every sinful stain,
And make us kings and priests to God:
Worthy the Lamb, for he was slain!

Long as we live, and when we die,
And while in heaven with him we reign,
This song our song of songs shall be,
Worthy the Lamb, for he was slain!

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XIV.

1. What was the name of Isaac's brother?
2. Which was the older of the two brothers?
3. Who became a great hunter?
4. Of what did Ishmael become a chief?
5. What is said of the natives of Arabia?
6. Where do we read about Ishmaelites?
7. Who was the child of promise?
8. What was the name of Isaac's mother?
9. When did she die?
10. What was her character?
11. How is Sarah spoken of in the New Testament?
12. How long had she been the wife of Abraham?
13. What does the Bible say of Abraham when she died?
14. Where was Sarah buried?
15. How long after the death of Sarah when Isaac married?
16. What was the name of his wife?
17. Whose daughter was she?
18. How were the last years in the life of Abraham spent?
19. Of what is his life said to have been full?
20. To what is his end compared?
21. How old was Abraham at his death?
22. By whom was he buried?
23. And where?
24. Near what place was this cave?
25. What is said of the life of Isaac?
26. What was his character?
27. What was his greatest honor?

28. Of what was his being offered on the altar a figure?
29. In what respect did Isaac resemble Christ?
30. What does Christ say of himself?
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LESSON FIFTEENTH.

JACOB AND ESAU.

THE two sons of Isaac were Esau, who was a hunter, and Jacob, who was a shepherd. Esau was the first-born, and was the favorite of his father; but the mother was more partial to her younger son, Jacob.

One day Esau had been out hunting, and came home tired and hungry. He asked his brother to give him some food; but Jacob would not do it unless Esau would give him, in return for it, his birthright, that is, the right which belonged to the first-born. This was not kind in Jacob; but Esau was very hungry, and, as the apostle tells us, for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. This birthright included a double portion of the father's property, the right of becoming chief of his tribe, and the priestly office, which at that time belonged to the oldest son.

But Jacob acted still more unkindly to his brother. Their father was sick and blind, an old man, who thought he should soon die. One day he told Esau to go and get him some savory meat, that he might bless him before he died.

While Esau was gone to the field to do as his father told him, Jacob brought two kids from his flock to his mother, who made of them such food as Isaac loved.

Dressed in a suit of Esau's clothes, Jacob brought the food to his father, who, being blind, did not see who it was, but was made to think that it was his first-born son. Jacob indeed said, I am thy son Esau. I have done as thou desired; arise, I pray thee, and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me. Thus the poor old man was imposed upon, and Jacob got the blessing that he meant for Esau.

This was very wicked on the part of Jacob, and one cannot help feeling sorry for Esau, who had thus lost the blessing. It is said he lifted up his voice and wept, and said, Hast thou but one blessing, O my father? Bless me, even me also.

But this could not be done, as, by the customs of that age, when the father had

solemnly blessed one son, the blessing could not be recalled or altered.

Then Esau was very angry, and said he would kill his brother Jacob as soon as their father died.

When Rebekah, their mother, heard this, she requested Jacob to leave his home, and get out of Esau's way. Go, said she, to your uncle Laban, and stay a few days with him, until your brother forget his anger, and I will send and fetch you home.

Poor woman! She had helped her son to cheat his father, and now she sends him away, as she thinks, for a few days; but she will never see him again. Before his return she will have gone the way of all the earth.

HYMN.

The Lord is in his holy place,
And from his throne on high
He looks upon the human race
With omnipresent eye.

He proves the righteous, marks their path;
In him the weak are strong;
But violence provokes his wrath,
The Lord abhorreth wrong.

The righteous Lord will take delight
Alone in righteousness;
The just are pleasing in his sight,
The humble, he will bless.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XV.

1. How many sons had Isaac?
2. What were their names?
3. What did Esau do for a livelihood?
4. What was Jacob?
5. Which was the elder son?
6. Whose favorite was he?
7. Which was the favorite son of his mother?
8. What had Esau been doing when he came home tired and hungry?
9. What did he ask of his brother?
10. Did Jacob give him food?
11. What did he demand in return for the food?
12. What is said of Jacob's conduct on this occasion?
13. What does the apostle say about Esau?
14. What was included in this birthright?
15. To whom did the priestly office at this time belong?
16. What is further said of Jacob?
17. What was the state of their father's health at this time?
18. What did he request Esau to do?
19. While Esau was gone to the field what did Jacob do?
20. Who prepared the food from the kids which Jacob brought?
21. How was Jacob dressed when he did this?
22. Why did not Isaac detect the imposition?
23. Did Jacob also tell an untruth?
24. What did he say?
25. Did he succeed in obtaining the blessing?

26. What was the conduct of Esau on the occasion?
 27. Why could not his father bless him also?
 28. What did Esau then threaten to do?
 29. Who heard his threats?
 30. Where did Rebekah send Jacob?
 31. What was the name of Jacob's uncle?
 32. What had Rebekah helped Jacob to do?
 33. In what respect was she mistaken?
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LESSON SIXTEENTH.

JACOB'S VISION.

WE come now to a most remarkable event in the life of Jacob. He leaves his home, as his mother directed, alone and secretly, for fear of his brother Esau. He had with him but a staff to walk with as he goes on his way.

The journey from his home to Padan Aram, where his uncle lived, was about four hundred and fifty miles. The road was rough and dreary. As he passed on, sad and bitter must have been his thoughts. He had time to think of his sins. He did think of them, and repented, and found pardon from a gracious prayer-hearing God.

This is clear from the fact that afterward a great change is found in his character

and conduct. It is also proved by the fact that God then revealed himself to Jacob in a wonderful manner.

When the sun was set, and the shades of night drew on, at the close of his second day's journey, he lay down to rest in the open air, with a stone under his head for a pillow.

During his sleep the Lord showed him a wonderful vision. He saw a ladder set upon the earth, the top of which reached to heaven. On this ladder he saw angels coming down and going up. While he was gazing on this sight, the Lord appeared to him above the ladder and spake these words to Jacob: I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac. In thee, and in thy seed, shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places.

When Jacob awoke out of his sleep he was, of course, astonished and lost in wonder at the goodness of God. Then and there he made a vow to serve the Lord. The Lord, said he, shall be my God, a resolution which we should all make, and which cannot be made too early in life.

Two things were intended by that

vision of the angels upon the ladder as seen by Jacob. The first was to teach him and to teach us the connection that there is between earth and heaven. The Apostle Paul asks the question, Are not all the angel's ministering spirits sent forth to minister unto them who shall be heirs of salvation? And Jacob's vision answers that question and confirms the saying of the Psalmist: The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him.

But secondly, Jesus Christ alluded to these angels when he said, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.

By Jesus Christ, while on the one hand, God has come down to man, on the other, man may ascend to God.

HYMN.

What doth the ladder mean
Sent down from the Most High?
Fastened to earth its foot is seen,
Its summit in the sky.

Lo! up and down the scale
The angels swiftly move;
And God the great invisible
Himself appears above!

Jesus that ladder is,
Incarnate Deity,
Partaker of celestial bliss
And human misery.

Sent from his high abode,
To sleeping mortals given,
He stands, and man unites to God,
And earth connects with heaven.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XVI.

1. What is said of the event which is the subject of this lesson?
2. How does Jacob leave his home?
3. At whose direction does he leave his home?
4. What had he with him on this journey?
5. How long was the journey?
6. What was the name of the place his uncle lived in?
7. What was the state of the road?
8. What is supposed to have been the character of his thoughts?
9. Of what had he time to think?
10. What was the result of his repentance?
11. What fact is first stated as evidence of his having found mercy?
12. By what other fact is this confirmed?
13. Where did he lie down to rest?
14. On what day of his journey was this?
15. What had he under his head for a pillow?
16. What did the Lord show him while he was asleep?
17. What did Jacob see in this wonderful vision?
18. What happened while he was gazing at the angels?

19. What did the Lord say to Jacob?
20. How did Jacob feel when he awoke from sleep?
21. What did he do then and there?
22. Who else should make the same resolution?
23. When should it be made?
24. What was the first thing intended by that vision of angels?
25. What question does St. Paul ask?
26. What saying of the Psalmist is also confirmed?
27. Who else alludes to these ascending and descending angels?
28. Can you repeat what Jesus said on the subject?
29. Do you know to whom Jesus said this?
30. What are the two things here said of Christ?



LESSON SEVENTEENTH.

ISRAEL THE CONQUEROR.

JACOB reached the end of his long and lonely journey in safety, and was received with great kindness by his uncle Laban. This kindness, however, was all a pretense. Laban was a selfish miser. He deceived his nephew and imposed upon him; but God's blessing was with Jacob, and he prospered in all that he did, and in course of time grew to be rich in flocks and herds.

He had been a servant to his uncle fourteen years, and as he had now a large

family of his own, he thought it best to leave Laban, and return to his own country with all that he had.

In the course of their journey word was one day brought to Jacob that his brother Esau, with four hundred men, was coming to meet him. You remember that Esau had threatened to kill his brother, and though so many years had passed, Jacob was afraid. He knew that he was too weak to engage in a fight against Esau and four hundred men. He feared not only for his own life but for the lives of his family.

In this hour of trouble he calls upon his God in prayer. He pleads the promises made to his fathers and to himself. This is a part of his prayer: "Thou hast said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, thou hast said, I will deal well with thee;" and now, pleading that promise, he says: "Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother; for I fear him, lest he come and smite me, and the mother with the children."

And Jacob continued in prayer all that night. He *wrestled* in prayer, in the language of the sacred writer, until the breaking of the day. The whole account is one of the most wonderful and most instructive in

the Bible. Jacob continued to pray until he received the blessing. "I will not let thee go," said he; "unless thou bless me;" and that was the moment of his victory. Then the blessing came. The Being with whom Jacob wrestled in prayer said to him: "Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel; for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed." With the dawn of a new day a flood of light, and peace, and joy broke in upon his soul, and thenceforth he is called no longer Jacob, which means a supplanter, but Israel, a victorious prince.

From him, afterward, the people of God took the name of Israelites, for as Jacob became Israel only as the result of fervent prayer, so do the children of men become Israelites and heirs of the promises. Hence it is that Jesus Christ tells us to strive to enter in at the strait gate; and in allusion to the wrestling of fervent prayer, he says, "The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."

HYMN.

Feeble, helpless, how shall I
Learn to live and learn to die?
Who, O God my guide shall be?
Who shall lead thy child to thee?

Blessed Father, gracious one,
Thou hast sent thy holy Son;
He will give the light I need,
He my trembling steps will lead,
Through this world, uncertain, dim,
Let me ever lean on him;
From his precepts wisdom draw,
Make his life my solemn law,
Thus in deed, and thought, and word,
Led by Jesus Christ, the Lord,
In my weakness thus shall I
Learn to live and learn to die.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XVII.

1. How did Jacob reach the end of his journey?
2. How was he received by his uncle Laban?
3. What is said of Laban's apparent kindness?
4. What was the character of Laban?
5. How did he show his evil disposition?
6. What caused Jacob to prosper?
7. In what did he become rich?
8. How long was he Laban's servant?
9. What did he think it best to do?
10. As they journeyed what message was brought to Jacob?
11. What had Esau threatened to do?
12. How long before this was that threat made?
13. How did Jacob feel when he heard of Esau's approach?

14. What did Jacob do in this hour of trouble ?
15. Can you repeat any part of Jacob's prayer ?
16. How long did he continue in prayer ?
17. What is the language of the sacred writer ?
18. What is said of this whole account ?
19. What is the language used by Jacob ?
20. What happened when he said that ?
21. What did He with whom Jacob wrestled say to him ?
22. At the dawn of the new day what occurred ?
23. What does the name of Jacob mean ?
24. Wherein did Jacob deserve that name ?
25. What is the meaning of the name Israel ?
26. By what name are the people of God sometimes called ?
27. Why are they so called ?
28. What does Jesus Christ say about the strait gate ?
29. What does he say in allusion to the wrestling of fervent prayer ?



LESSON EIGHTEENTH.

JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS.

THE meeting of Esau and his brother Jacob, now called Israel, was kind and friendly. Esau, it seems, had forgotten the cause of his anger, and brotherly love prevailed between them.

Esau founded the kingdom of Edom, while from his brother descended the people called Israelites. They were divided into twelve tribes, each named after one of his sons. These were their names: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulon, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Joseph, Benjamin.

Of all these children Joseph was the favorite of his father. The rest, except Benjamin, who was the youngest, became jealous of Joseph because his father loved him so much. And they hated him more and more, until at last they could not speak peaceably to him.

One day, when they were in the field, at some distance from home, they said one to another, Let us kill Joseph, and we can tell his father that he has been slain by a wild beast.

The eldest brother, Reuben, said, No, let us not kill him, but let us cast him into a pit. This they did in spite of the poor boy's cries and tears. They meant to let him starve to death there in the pit.

But by chance some men came by who were going to Egypt. To these men they sold their brother as a slave for twenty pieces of silver, a sum equal to about ten or twelve dollars of our money. This was most wicked and cruel. It is the first time

we read of such a thing as a slave bought and sold for money. But only to think of men selling their own brother! a boy, at that time about seventeen years of age, and a brother so good and gentle, with whom they could find no fault but that his father loved him. But there was no help for Joseph. The men who bought him took him away with them, in spite of his cries and prayers. Hard, indeed, must have been the hearts of his cruel brothers; but they gave no heed to his tears, and they saw the men who had bought their brother as a slave drag him away with them.

But they did what some might think quite as bad as selling Joseph. Before they parted with him they took off a coat of many colors which the lad's father had made for him. This they dipped in the blood of a goat which they had killed, and then brought it to their father. They told him they found it in the field. See, said they, if it be thy son's coat or not. Their father knew the coat as soon as he saw it, and as it was bloody, he thought some beast had killed his boy. The poor old man wept, and would not be comforted. He said, I will go down to my grave mourning for my son.

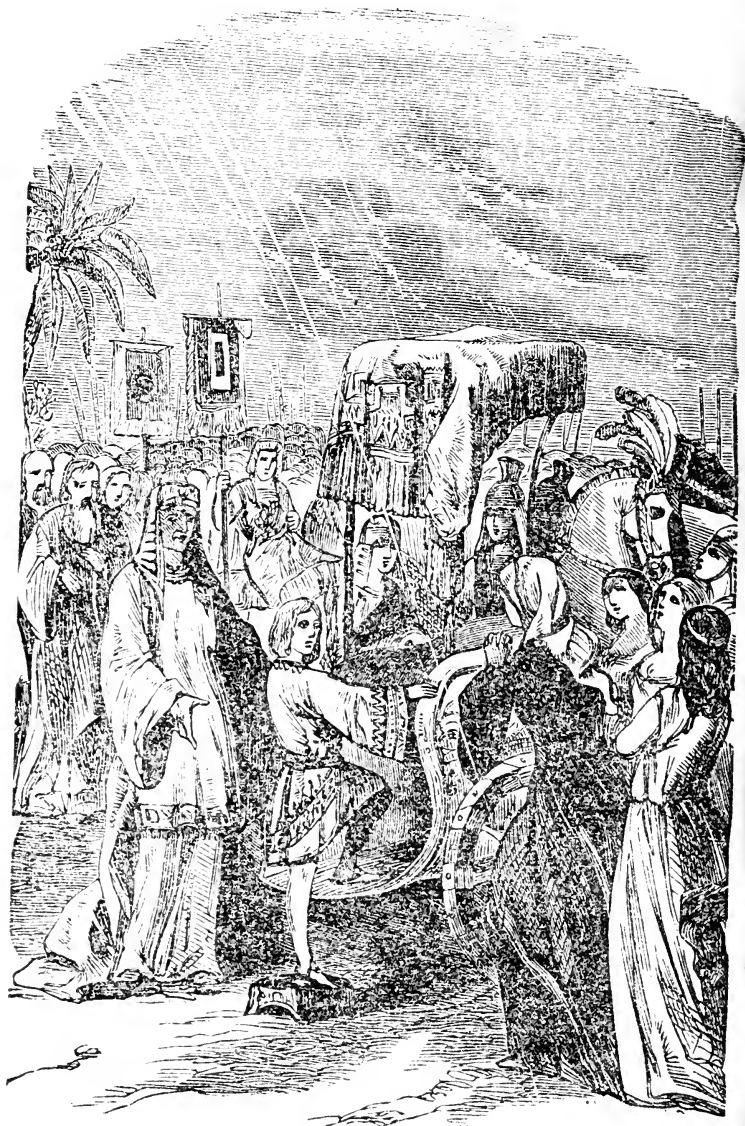
HYMN.

When musing sorrow weeps the past,
And mourns the present pain,
'Tis sweet to think of peace at last,
And feel that death is gain.

O let me wing my hallowed flight
From earth-born woe and care,
And soar above these clouds of night
My Saviour's bliss to share.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XVIII.

1. What is said of the meeting between Esau and Jacob?
2. What had Esau forgotten?
3. What prevailed between them?
4. What was the name of the kingdom founded by Esau?
5. From whom did the Israelites descend?
6. Into how many tribes were they divided?
7. From whom did these tribes derive their names?
8. Can you give the names of the sons of Israel?
9. Which of these sons was the favorite of his father?
10. Which was the youngest son?
11. Do you know which was the oldest?
12. What is further said of their hatred of Joseph?
13. What did they propose to do one day when they were in the field?
14. Who objected to killing Joseph?



JOSEPH IN HONOR.

15. What did Reuben propose to do?
 16. Did they throw him into the pit?
 17. What was their intention in doing this?
 18. Whither were the men going who then came by?
 19. What did they do with Joseph?
 20. For how much did they sell him?
 21. How many dollars are twenty pieces of silver?
 22. How do you regard this conduct?
 23. Is this the first instance we have of a slave sold for money?
 24. How old was Joseph at this time?
 25. What did those do who bought Joseph?
 26. What would some think of their next action?
 27. Who made for Joseph a coat of many colors?
 28. What did his brothers do with that coat?
 29. What falsehood did they tell him?
 30. What question did they ask him?
 31. What did their father think when he saw the coat?
 32. What did he say?
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LESSON NINETEENTH.

JOSEPH THE GOVERNOR.

WHEN the merchants who bought Joseph reached Egypt they sold him to a man named Potiphar, who was an officer in the household of the king. By this new master Joseph was at first treated kindly; but

owing to a false charge brought against him by Potiphar's wife, he was cast into prison.

While in this dungeon, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, had a dream which none of his wise men could interpret. The king was told that Joseph could perhaps do it, as he had explained the meaning of two dreams of the servants of Pharaoh. Then the king sent for him, and he was brought out of prison.

With great modesty Joseph listened to Pharaoh as he told his dream. Only by the help of the Lord could he hope to tell what the dream meant. The Lord did help him. The dream, Joseph said, foretold seven years of great plenty in the land of Egypt, and then seven years of famine. He advised the king to lay up grain in the years of plenty, that they might have food to eat in the years of famine.

The king agreed to do so, and made Joseph his first officer to attend to this business. He put a gold chain about Joseph's neck, and took off his own ring and put it on Joseph's finger, and made him ruler over all the land.

Then, even as he had said, there came seven

years in which the crops of all kinds of grain were very large. By order of Joseph food was gathered and laid up in storehouses in great abundance, even so much, during the seven years, that the corn was said to be like the sands on the sea-shore, past reckoning up.

Then the seven years of famine came. The dearth was in all lands, and people from every quarter came to Egypt to buy food.

At length the brothers of Joseph, who had sold him as a slave, were obliged to make a journey to Egypt to buy food for themselves and their families. When they saw the ruler of Egypt they did not know that he was their brother, but he knew them, and at first treated them harshly. Then their consciences troubled them, and they began to think of their cruel and wicked conduct.

But Joseph still loved them, and after a while made himself known.

Then he sent for his father; and when Israel was told that Joseph was yet alive and governor of Egypt, his heart fainted, for he believed them not. But when they showed him what his son Joseph had sent, the corn, and the wagons which were to

carry them and all he had to Egypt, Israel said, It is enough; Joseph my son is yet alive, I will go down and see him before I die.

Thus the whole family came into Egypt and, by direction of Joseph, made their home in the land of Goshen. Seventeen years after their arrival in Egypt the good old patriarch died, and his son Joseph took his body to Hebron, and laid it in the same tomb where had been placed the bodies of Abraham and Isaac.

Fifty-four years afterward Joseph also died, at the age of one hundred and ten, having been a ruler in Egypt eighty years.

HYMN.

Great God, with wonder and with praise
On all thy works I look;
But still thy wisdom, power, and grace
Shine brightest in thy book.

Here may I learn how Christ has died
To save my soul from hell;
Not all the books on earth beside
Such heavenly wonders tell.

Then let me love my Bible more,
And take a fresh delight
By day to read these wonders o'er
And meditate by night.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XIX.

- 1 What did the men who bought Joseph do with him?
2. What was Potiphar?
3. How did he treat Joseph?
4. Who brought a false charge against him?
5. What was the result of that false accusation?
6. What happened while Joseph was in this dungeon?
7. What were Pharaoh's wise men unable to do?
8. What was the king told?
9. Why was it thought that Joseph could interpret the dream?
10. What did the king then do?
11. How did Joseph listen to the king's dream?
12. By whose help could Joseph interpret the dream?
13. Did the Lord help him?
14. How many years of plenty did the dream foretell?
15. What was to follow the years of plenty?
16. What did Joseph advise the king to do?
17. Did the king follow that advice?
18. Whom did the king make his officer to attend to this?
19. What other honor did he confer on Joseph?
20. What was the state of the crops during the next seven years?
21. What was then done by Joseph's order?
22. What was the amount of corn said to be like?
23. What followed the seven years of plenty?
24. To what extent did the famine prevail?
25. Who came to Egypt to buy food?
26. What is said of the brothers of Joseph?

27. How did Joseph treat them ?
28. How did they feel ?
29. What did Joseph do when he made himself known ?
30. What is said of Israel when he first heard the story ?
31. What did he say when he saw the wagons Joseph had sent ?
32. In what part of Egypt did Joseph place the family ?
33. How many years after this did Israel live ?
34. Where was he buried ?
35. How old was Joseph when he died ?
36. How long had he been a ruler in Egypt ?



LESSON TWENTIETH.

THE CRUEL DECREE.

DURING the life of Joseph, and for some time after his death, the Hebrews, or children of Israel, as the sons of Jacob and their descendants were called, were kindly treated by the Egyptians. They increased rapidly in number and in wealth.

At length, however, a new race of kings ruled over Egypt; kings who knew not Joseph, and who had no regard for his memory.

The Hebrews still dwelt in the land of

Goshen, and in about one hundred years after Joseph's death the Egyptians began to be afraid that they would become more numerous and powerful than themselves. So they began to treat the Israelites with harshness and cruelty. They reduced them, in fact, to a state of bondage, and made slaves of them.

The Egyptians appointed task-masters over them, who afflicted them with hard tasks, and treated them with severity. They were compelled to do all kinds of work in the field, to make bricks, and to build cities.

It is said, but of this we have no positive evidence, that those wonders of the world, the Pyramids, were built by the Israelites, under the direction of the Egyptians.

Those immense buildings are still standing. It is supposed by learned men that the Pyramids were designed for the tombs of the kings of Egypt, and that their dead bodies were placed within them.

The condition of the Israelites grew worse and worse. The cruelty of the Egyptians increased; but the more they afflicted those whom they now treated as slaves, the more they grew in numbers, for God con-

tinued to bless them, and remembered the promises which he had made to their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Israel.

At length a decree was made by the king of Egypt which it was thought would put a stop to the wonderful increase of this people. The name of this king was Pharaoh, the same as he was called to whom Joseph, more than a hundred years before, had interpreted the dream which foretold the years of plenty and of famine. But it seems that in those days each king, when he came to the throne, took the name of Pharaoh; and hence, those who do not know that fact are apt to confound one with another, and thus fall into error. The decree of this king was that all the male children of the Hebrews should be thrown into the river and drowned. Any parents who did not obey this cruel command, and throw their little boys into the river, might expect to be put to death themselves.

We do not know how many little children were thus destroyed; but, as we shall see, even this decree was overruled by the Almighty for the promotion of his designs, and resulted in raising up a leader for the children of Israel, by whom they

were at last rescued from their Egyptian bondage.

HYMN.

Lord, all who put their trust in thee

Thy mercy shall proclaim,

And sing with cheerful melody

Their great Redeemer's name.

Protected by thy guardian grace,

They shall extol thy power;

Rejoice, give thanks, and sing thy praise,

And triumph evermore.

They never shall to evil yield,

Defended from above;

And kept and covered with the shield

Of thine Almighty love.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XX.

1. During the life of Joseph how did the Egyptians treat the Israelites?
2. Who are meant by the Hebrews?
3. By what other name are they also called?
4. In what did they increase rapidly?
5. What is said of a new race of kings?
6. For what had they no regard?
7. Where did the Hebrews dwell at this time?
8. Of what did the Egyptians begin to be afraid?
9. How long was this after the death of Joseph?
10. How then did the Egyptians begin to treat the Israelites?

11. To what state were the Israelites reduced?
12. What did the Egyptians appoint?
13. How did those task-masters treat the Israelites?
14. What were they made to do?
15. What wonders of the world are next spoken of?
16. By whom is it thought the Pyramids were built?
17. Are the Pyramids still standing?
18. For what object were they erected?
19. What is next said of the condition of the Israelites?
20. What is said of the cruelty of the Egyptians?
21. What effect had this increasing cruelty on the Israelites?
22. To what was the increase of the Israelites owing?
23. To whom had God made special promises?
24. What was the name of the king of Egypt?
25. Was this the king whose dream Joseph interpreted?
26. What did he hope to effect by the decree which he made?
27. What is said with reference to the name of the kings of Egypt?
28. What was the decree of this king?
29. What might those expect who disobeyed the king's command?
30. What do we not know?
31. By whom was this decree overruled?
32. In what did it result?

LESSON TWENTY-FIRST.

THE BIRTH OF MOSES.

WHILE this cruel decree was in force, a little boy was born whose mother determined to try to save from death. She had two other children, a boy named Aaron, and a girl who was called Miriam.

Her new-born babe was a beautiful child, and she kept him hid for three months from the sight of those who would have made her throw him in the river.

At last, when she could keep him hid no longer, she made a little boat, or ark, as it was called, in which she put the child, and placed it carefully among the reeds which grew by the brink of the river. This, we may be sure, she did with many tears and kisses, and in the hope that by some means the boy's life would be saved.

Miriam, the sister of the little fellow, was left to watch for a while, and to see what would be the result.

It came to pass, in a little while, that one of the daughters of the Egyptian king, with several of the maids who waited upon her,

took a walk on the bank of the river. By chance, as some would say, but, more properly, directed by Providence, they came to that part of the stream where the young babe was lying in the little boat made for him by his mother.

When the princess, as a king's daughter is called, saw the boat, she told one of her maids to go and fetch it, which she did. Having opened it, she saw the child, who began to cry. When the princess saw his tears she had pity on him. She said, It is a child of one of the Hebrews, and she resolved to save his life.

But what shall be done for a nurse to take care of the little babe? Just then Miriam presented herself, and, without making known the fact that the child was her own brother, she asked if she should go and find a nurse among the Hebrew women. The king's daughter told her to do so. Right glad you may be sure Miriam was when she went and told her mother to come and be the nurse of her own babe.

Take this child, said Pharaoh's daughter, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. This, of course, was gladly done, and his own mother continued to nurse the

babe until he was weaned. Then he was taken to the palace of the king, and was known as the son of the king's daughter, who gave unto him the name Moses.

Very different was his lot now from that of his brother and sister, and the other children of the afflicted and persecuted Hebrews. His life was one of ease and luxury. He was educated in all the learning of the Egyptians, at that time the most learned people in the world, and there was a prospect that he might one day become the king of Egypt.

HYMN.

Whom have we, Lord, in heaven but thee,
And whom on earth beside?

Where else for succor can we flee,
Or in whose strength confide?

When heart and flesh, O Lord, shall fail,
Thou wilt our spirit cheer;
Support us through life's thorny vale,
And calm each anxious fear.

Yes, thou shalt be our guide through life,
And help and strength supply;
Sustain us in death's fearful strife,
And welcome us on high.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXI.

1. What was the cruel decree which is here spoken of?
2. What happened at this time?
3. What did this boy's mother determine to do?
4. How many other children had she?
5. What were their names?
6. What is said of this new-born babe?
7. How long did his mother keep him hidden?
8. What did she do when she could keep him **hid no** longer?
9. How did she do this?
10. What did she hope when she placed the boy **in the** boat?
11. Who was left to watch the result?
12. What then came to pass?
13. How were they led to that part of the **stream where** the child was?
14. What is a king's daughter called?
15. What did the princess do when she **saw the** boat?
16. When the ark was uncovered, what did the child do?
17. What effect had his tears on the king's daughter?
18. What did she say he was?
19. What did she resolve to do?
20. What question then arose?
21. Who then presented herself before the princess?
22. What did Miriam ask the privilege of doing?
23. What did the king's daughter tell her to do?
24. To whom did Miriam go?
25. What said Pharaoh's daughter to the child's mother?

26. How long did she continue to nurse the child?
27. Where was he then taken?
28. As whose son did he then become known?
29. What name did the daughter of Pharaoh give him?
30. What kind of life did he then lead?
31. How was he educated?
32. What was the apparent prospect before him?



LESSON TWENTY-SECOND.

THE BURNING BUSH.

MOSES continued to live in the palace of the king of Egypt, and to be regarded as the son of the king's daughter until he was forty years of age. During all that time the Israelites were treated with harshness and cruelty by their oppressors.

Moses had been told of his birth, and knew the sorrows and sufferings of his people. At length, when he saw no prospect of their afflictions coming to an end, he determined to share those afflictions with them. He refused to be considered or treated any longer as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He renounced the wealth and luxury of the king's palace, and took his place among the despised and down-trodden Israelites. He

chose rather, says the apostle, to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.

One day, after he had come to this determination, Moses saw an Egyptian smite an Israelite; at the sight of which his anger became so great that he killed the Egyptian and hid his body in the sand.

When this became known he was obliged to fly for his life. The king of Egypt sought to put him to death; but he escaped, and went and dwelt in the land of Midian, a country supposed to have been on the eastern coast of the Red Sea, in Stony Arabia. In that country he became a shepherd, and married, and had two sons whom he called Gershom and Eliezer.

And now another king arose in Egypt who treated the unhappy Hebrews with still greater cruelty. They sighed, it is said, by reason of their bondage, and their cry went up to heaven for deliverance. And God heard their cry and made known to Moses his determination to set them free from their slavery in Egypt.

The way in which God revealed his purpose is one of the most wonderful events to be found in the Bible. Moses was with his

flock near Mount Horeb, afterward called the Mountain of God. On a sudden he was startled by beholding a flame of fire bursting from the midst of a bush. The fire continued to burn, but the bush was not consumed.

While Moses was gazing at this strange sight, God called to him out of the midst of the bush and said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. At hearing this Moses was terrified and hid his face.

Then the Almighty told Moses of his determination to set his people free, and to bring them out of the land of Egypt, and to give them a land flowing with milk and honey. He also made known his will that Moses should be the leader of the people, and gave him power to work miracles, that thus he might convince the people that God had really sent him to be their deliverer.

At the same time the elder brother of Moses, whose name, you remember, was Aaron, was appointed to be his companion. He was yet dwelling in Goshen with the oppressed Israelites, but was directed by

the Lord to go and meet his brother on Mount Sinai.

HYMN.

What sinners value I resign ;
Lord, 'tis enough if thou art mine ;
I shall behold thy blissful face,
And stand complete in righteousness,

This world's a dream, an empty show :
But the bright world to which I go
Hath joys substantial and sincere ;
When shall I wake and find me there ?

O glorious hour ! O blest abode !
I shall be near and like my God ;
And flesh and sin no more control
The sacred pleasures of the soul.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXII.

1. How long did Moses continue in the king's palace ?
2. How were the Israelites treated during that time ?
3. Did Moses suppose himself to be an Egyptian ?
4. With what had he been made acquainted ?
5. To what determination did Moses come ?
6. When did he thus determine ?
7. What did he refuse to be any longer considered ?
8. What did he renounce ?
9. Where did he take his place ?
10. Can you repeat what the apostle says about him ?
11. What excited the anger of Moses ?

12. What did he then do to the Egyptian?
13. When this became known what was he obliged to do?
14. Who sought to put him to death?
15. When he escaped where did he go to dwell?
16. Where was the land of Midian?
17. What did he do for a living in that country?
18. What were the names of his sons who were born there?
19. How did the next king of Egypt treat the Israelites?
20. What is said of them in this affliction?
21. What did God make known to Moses?
22. What was the name of the mountain near which God made known his will?
23. What was this mountain afterward called?
24. What strange sight startled Moses?
25. What happened while Moses was gazing at the burning bush?
26. What did God say?
27. How did this affect Moses?
28. Of what did the Almighty then tell Moses?
29. Whom did the Lord appoint to be leader of the people?
30. What power did God give to Moses?
31. Who was appointed to be the companion of Moses?
32. Where was Aaron now living?
33. Who directed him to go and meet Moses?

LESSON TWENTY-THIRD.

PHARAOH'S REFUSAL.

As the Lord had directed them, Moses and Aaron met each other at the place appointed. They had not seen each other for the long space of forty years, and their meeting was one of great joy to them both. They told each other of what had happened while they had been separated, and Moses related to his brother all the words that the Lord had spoken, and told him of the signs and wonders which God would enable them to perform.

Then they called a meeting of the chief men among the Israelites, to whom they made known what God was about to do. In proof of the truth of what they said they performed several miracles.

First, they turned a rod into a living serpent and with a word converted it into a rod again.

Then Aaron put his hand into his bosom, and when he took it out behold it was as white as snow, all covered with leprosy. While the elders of the people were yet

looking at this disgusting sight, he put his hand again into his bosom, and in a moment it was restored to perfect soundness.

And yet one more miracle. Aaron calls for some of the water of the Nile, that river once so full of horror to every Hebrew mother. The water is brought, it is poured forth upon the dry ground, and just as God had said, the water is turned into blood.

When they saw these things the people were satisfied that these men, Moses and Aaron, were sent by the God of their fathers to free them from the yoke of bondage, and they bowed their heads and worshiped.

Then, with great boldness, these two brothers go to the king of Egypt and tell him what the Lord had said. This was their language to the tyrant: "Thus said the Lord God of Israel, Let my people go that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness."

And the king, whose name was Pharaoh, as we have seen was common to all who ruled over Egypt, was very angry at the bold demand of Moses and Aaron. And he said, "Who is the Lord that I should obey his voice? I know not the Lord, and I will not let Israel go?"

But not only did Pharaoh refuse to set the

people free, but being very angry that such a demand had been made, he increased greatly the severity with which the unhappy Israelites were treated. Their lot was almost unbearable before, but now it became far more grievous.

The poor, afflicted people now began to find fault with Moses and Aaron. "The Lord," said they, "look upon you two men and judge." As if they had said, Our lives were bitter before; and now, since ye persuaded us that God was about to set us free, and went unto the king with your message, we have been treated far worse than before.

Then, too, the faith of Moses began to fail. He could not help being sad that the afflictions of his people had been increased, and he even ventured to ask the Lord, "Why is it that thou hast sent me?" In his haste he seems to accuse God of forgetting his word and of violating his promise.

HYMN.

Some put their trust in chariots,
And horses some rely on;
But God alone
Our help we own:
He is the strength of Zion.

His name we will remember
In every sore temptation,
And feel its powers,
For Christ is ours,
With all his great salvation.

He out of all our troubles
Shall mightily deliver,
And then receive
Us up to live
And reign with him forever.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXIII.

1. By whose direction did Moses and Aaron meet?
2. Where was this meeting of the two brothers?
3. How long since they had seen each other before this?
4. What is said of the character of this meeting?
5. On what subject did they converse?
6. What did the two brothers then do?
7. How did they proceed to prove the truth of what they said?
8. What was the first miracle performed?
9. What was the second?
10. What did Aaron call for in order to show the third sign?
11. Into what was the water converted?
12. What effect did these miracles produce?
13. What did those who were present then do?
14. What was the next step taken by Moses and Aaron?

15. What was their language to King Pharaoh?
16. By whose command did they profess to come?
17. What was the common name of the kings of Egypt?
18. How did Pharaoh receive the message of Moses and Aaron?
19. What question did he ask?
20. Whom did he say he did not know?
21. What did he say of the Israelites?
22. Why was the king very angry?
23. How did he then treat the Israelites?
24. What is said of their present as contrasted with their former condition?
25. With whom did they now begin to find fault?
26. Had they any just reason to complain of Moses and Aaron?
27. What language did they use?
28. What is then said of the faith of Moses?
29. What made him sad and discouraged him?
30. What did Moses venture to do?
31. Of what in his haste does he seem to accuse God?



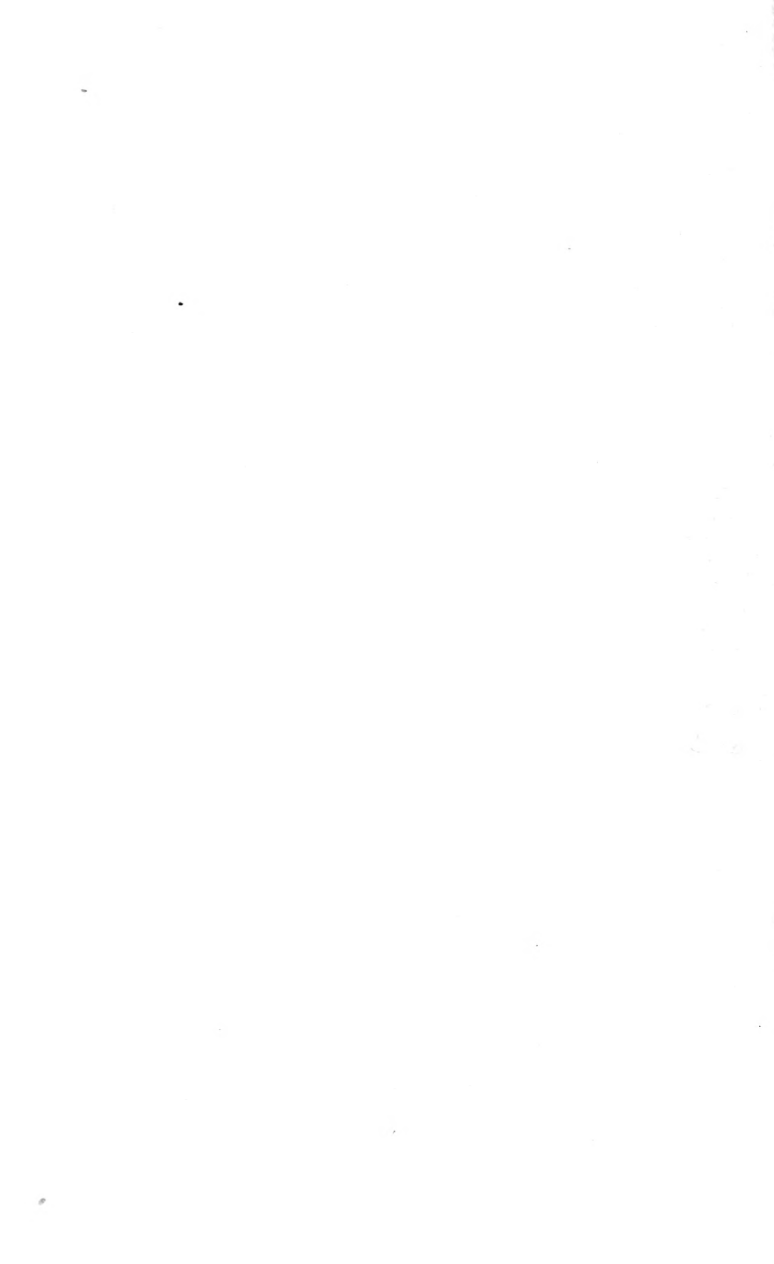
LESSON TWENTY-FOURTH.

THE PLAGUES OF EGYPT.

GOD listened to the cry of Moses, and pardoned him for his want of faith. He renews his promises, and directs the two brothers to go again to Pharaoh, with



THE ROD OF MOSES.



power to bring upon him and upon all Egypt the most dreadful plagues.

Thus encouraged and directed, Moses and Aaron again demand the liberation of the people. But, as before, the king refuses. So he continues to refuse, although each refusal is followed by a dreadful plague.

The first was the turning the waters of the Nile into blood. This caused the death of all the fish, and the river stank and became intolerably offensive. This state of things continued for a whole week, but was not sufficient to soften the hard heart of the Egyptian king.

Then, for the second plague, Aaron stretched out his rod, and an immense army of frogs came forth and filled the whole land of Egypt.

The third plague speedily followed. Aaron stretched out his rod again and smote the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and beast. The dust of the land, it is said, became lice throughout all the land of Egypt. But though the king's wise men admitted that this miracle could only be traced to the finger of God, he still refused to do what God commanded and let the people go.

Then followed a grievous swarm of flies, so numerous that the whole land was corrupted by them, and Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, promising to set the people free if they would put a stop to this plague. But he broke his promise as soon as the flies disappeared.

Then came the fifth plague, which is called a greivous murrain, that is, a contagious disease, which fell upon all the cattle of the Egyptians. Their horses, and oxen, and camels, and sheep all died; but what was remarkable, and showed plainly the hand of God, none of the cattle of the Israelites were affected by it.

The sixth plague was brought about by ashes taken from the furnace, which Moses sprinkled in the air, and which caused boils to break out upon the Egyptians, a loathsome and painful disease.

A still more terrible exhibition of God's power followed. The Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire mingled with hail, such as had never been seen before. And it smote all that were in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; but in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail.

Then, for a while, Pharaoh relented, and

made fair promises; but as soon as the storm passed away he hardened his heart again, and bade defiance to Moses and to the God who sent him.

The eighth plague was an immense swarm of locusts, which destroyed every green thing and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left. Then Pharaoh's servants and officers besought him to send away the Israelites; but he still refused, and the ninth plague followed. This was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt, which continued for three days. For that length of time they could not see one another, but the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

HYMN.

He reigns; the Lord, the Saviour reigns!
Praise him in evangelic strains;
Let all on earth in songs rejoice,
And praise him with united voice.

Deep are his counsels and unknown;
But grace and truth support his throne;
Though gloomy clouds his way surround,
Justice is their eternal ground.

His enemies, with sore dismay,
Fly from the sight and shun the day;
Then lift your heads, ye saints on high,
And sing, for your redemption's nigh.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXIV.

1. What is here said of Moses and his want of faith?
2. What does God direct the two brothers to do?
3. With what power are Moses and Aaron endued?
4. What do they then do?
5. How does Pharaoh treat their request?
6. By what is the refusal of the Egyptian king followed?
7. What was the first plague?
8. What effects followed this plague?
9. How long did the effects of this plague continue?
10. How was the second plague produced, and what was it?
11. What speedily followed?
12. What was the third plague?
13. What is said of the dust of the land?
14. What did the Egyptian wise men acknowledge?
15. What effect did this plague produce on Pharaoh?
16. What was the fourth plague?
17. What did Pharaoh then promise?
18. Did he keep his promise?
19. What was the fifth plague?
20. What were the effects of this murrain?
21. How did the hand of God appear in this plague?
22. What was the sixth plague, and how was it brought about?
23. What was the seventh plague?
24. What difference was there between Goshen and other parts of Egypt?
25. What effect did this plague produce on Pharaoh?
26. Did he keep his promise?

27. What was the eighth plague?
28. What is said of Pharaoh's officers and servants?
29. Did Pharaoh do as they requested?
30. Describe the ninth plague and its effects?



LESSON TWENTY-FIFTH.

THE PASSOVER.

AND now the most terrible of all God's visitations was about to fall upon the Egyptians, and the day of Israel's deliverance was at hand.

By the direction of the Almighty, each family of the Israelites has provided for itself a lamb, which is bled to death. With the blood of that lamb the door of every Israelite's house is sprinkled. Then they make preparations to eat their last meal in that land of bondage.

Having roasted the lamb, with their loins girded, with shoes on their feet and staffs in their hands, they feast together, each family by itself.

And it came to pass that at midnight the Lord smote all the first-born in the land of Egypt, and there was a great cry and universal lamentation, for there was not a

house wherein there was not one dead. But the destroying angel passed over the houses sprinkled with the blood of the lamb. The inmates of all those dwellings were safe, and the gracious promise of their God was about to be fulfilled.

In the midst of this terrible scene, while cries and lamentations were heard in every Egyptian dwelling, the king sends hastily for Moses and Aaron. "Go," says he, "take your flocks and herds and be gone." Many of the Egyptians also urged them to depart speedily, "else," say they, "we be all dead men."

Not, however, until the rising of the next day's sun did they depart. That sun looked down upon the gathering hosts, an army of freemen emancipated from a long and dreary bondage. There were the hoary-headed fathers, and the mothers bent by the infirmities of age; the young men rejoicing in their strength, and the little children mute with wonder at this strange procession. God's promise was fulfilled. The banners of the several tribes waved in the breeze; while from rank to rank, and from heart to heart, pealed the shout of freemen in loud hosannas to the Lord of hosts.

The number of the Israelites who went forth that day triumphant from the house of bondage was not less, probably, than three millions. There were six hundred thousand effective men besides the Levites, the aged and infirm, and the women and children.

The feast of which they partook on the night before leaving the land of Egypt was called the Passover. In memory of that great deliverance they were directed to keep this feast once a year. And so they did.

The blood of that lamb with which their door-posts were sprinkled was an emblem of that blood without which there is no remission of sin. So it continued to be for about fifteen hundred years. Then Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, abolished the feast called the Passover, and instituted in its place what is known as the Lord's Supper.

HYMN.

I am weary of straying! O fain would I rest
In that far-distant land of the pure and the blest!
Where sin can no longer its blandishments spread,
And tears and temptations forever have fled.

I long for that land whose blest promise alone
Is changeless and sure as eternity's throne;
I am weary of sighing o'er sorrows of earth,
O'er joy's glowing visions that fade at their birth.

I am weary, my Saviour, of grieving thy love;
O when shall I rest in thy presence above!
I am weary—but O let me never repine,
While thy word, and thy love, and thy promise are
mine.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXV.

1. What was now about to fall on the Egyptians?
2. What is said of the day of Israel's deliverance?
3. What did each family in Israel provide?
4. By whose direction was this done?
5. What was done with this lamb?
6. What was done with this blood?
7. What do they make preparations for doing?
8. In what way was the lamb cooked?
9. How did the Israelites feast together?
10. What happened at midnight?
11. What is said of the extent of this calamity?
12. How was it with the houses of the Israelites?
13. In the midst of the scene what does King Pharaoh do?
14. What does the king say to them?
15. Who else urged them to depart at once?
16. In what way did they urge their departure?
17. Did they depart immediately?
18. Upon what did the next day's sun look down?
19. From what were they emancipated?
20. Do you remember how many tribes of Israelites there were?
21. To whom did they attribute their deliverance?
22. What is supposed to have been the number of this people?

23. How many effective men were there ?
24. What was the feast of which we have been speaking called ?
25. How often were the Israelites directed to keep this feast ?
26. For what object were they to keep this feast ?
27. Did they thus continue to celebrate that feast ?
28. Of what was the blood of the Passover lamb an emblem ?
29. How long did it continue to be an emblem ?
30. Who then abolished the Passover ?
31. What did he institute in place of it ?



LESSON TWENTY-SIXTH.

SECOND QUARTERLY REVISION.

As we proceed with the Bible history it increases in interest. It is hoped too that you will find increasing pleasure in preparing to answer the questions in the lesson for to-day. These quarterly revisions are intended not only to exercise the memory, but to give you an opportunity to search the Scriptures, as Jesus has told us to do.

1. Where does Jesus say, Search the Scriptures ?
2. What was the name of Ishmael's mother ? (Gen. xvi, 15.)

3. By what means did Ishmael obtain a living?
4. How old was Sarah at her death?
5. What was the age of Isaac at his marriage?
6. What did the Lord say to Isaac when he appeared to him at Beersheba?
7. What was the name of the place where Jacob had the wonderful vision?
(Gen. xxviii, 19.)
8. Whom did Jacob marry?
9. How was Laban prevented from injuring Jacob when he departed to return to Canaan?
10. Jacob called a certain place Mahanaim. What does that mean, and why was the place so called?
11. Of what did Jacob's present to his brother Esau consist?
12. What was the name of the brook where Jacob wrestled all night?
13. What authority is there for saying it was an angel with whom Jacob wrestled? (See Gen. xxxii, 24, and Hosea xii, 4.)
14. Describe the conduct of Esau when he met Jacob on his return? (Gen. xxiii, 4, 9.)

15. What did Israel make for his son Joseph?
16. Where was Joseph when his brothers sold him?
17. What officers of Pharaoh had each a remarkable dream in the same night?
18. What were the two dreams of Pharaoh?
19. How old was Joseph when made governor of Egypt?
20. What were the names of the two sons of Joseph?
21. How do you account for the fact that Joseph knew his brothers but they knew not him? (Gen. xlii, 8.)
22. How were the brothers of Joseph treated when they dined with him by his invitation?
23. In what language did Israel bless the sons of Joseph?
24. Was it by accident or design that the patriarch laid his right hand on the younger son?
25. How do you understand Israel's declaration in Gen. xlix, 10?
26. What cities were built for Pharaoh by the Israelites? (Exod. i, 11.)
27. To which of the twelve tribes of Israel did the parents of Moses belong?

28. Do you know the meaning of the name Moses?
29. Whose daughter did Moses marry?
(Exod. iii, 1.)
30. What was her name?
31. Who was it that appeared to Moses in the burning bush? (Exod. iii, 2, 4.)
32. When Moses asked, What is his name that sent me? what reply did God make?
33. What tribes of people then dwelt in the land flowing with milk and honey, which God promised to the Israelites?
34. What do you understand by flowing with milk and honey?
35. In what way did Pharaoh increase the afflictions of the Israelites? (Exod. v, 7, 9.)
36. By what name does God reveal himself to Moses at this time?
37. How old was Moses when he went to King Pharaoh with the message from Jehovah to let the people go?
38. Wherein did Aaron's rod differ from those of the magicians?
39. What did Pharaoh's servants say to him at the seventh plague?
40. What was the direction God gave relative to the lamb for the Passover?
(Exodus xii.)

41. How long was this feast to be perpetuated?
42. What kind of bread did they eat at the Passover?
43. Who smote all the first born in the land of Egypt?
44. Did this destruction include cattle as well as human beings?
45. How long did the children of Israel dwell in the land of Egypt?
46. What became of the bones of Joseph when the Israelites departed from Egypt?

HYMN.

Crown his head with endless blessing,
 Who, in God the Father's name,
 With compassions never ceasing,
 Comes salvation to proclaim.

Lo! Jehovah, we adore thee;
 Thee, our Saviour; thee, our God!
 From his throne his beams of glory
 Shine through all the world abroad.

Jesus, thee our Saviour hailing,
 Thee, our God, in praise we own;
 Highest honors, never failing,
 Rise eternal round thy throne.

Little children, Christ confessing,
 Now in grateful strains adore;
 For his mercy, never ceasing,
 Flows, and flows for evermore.

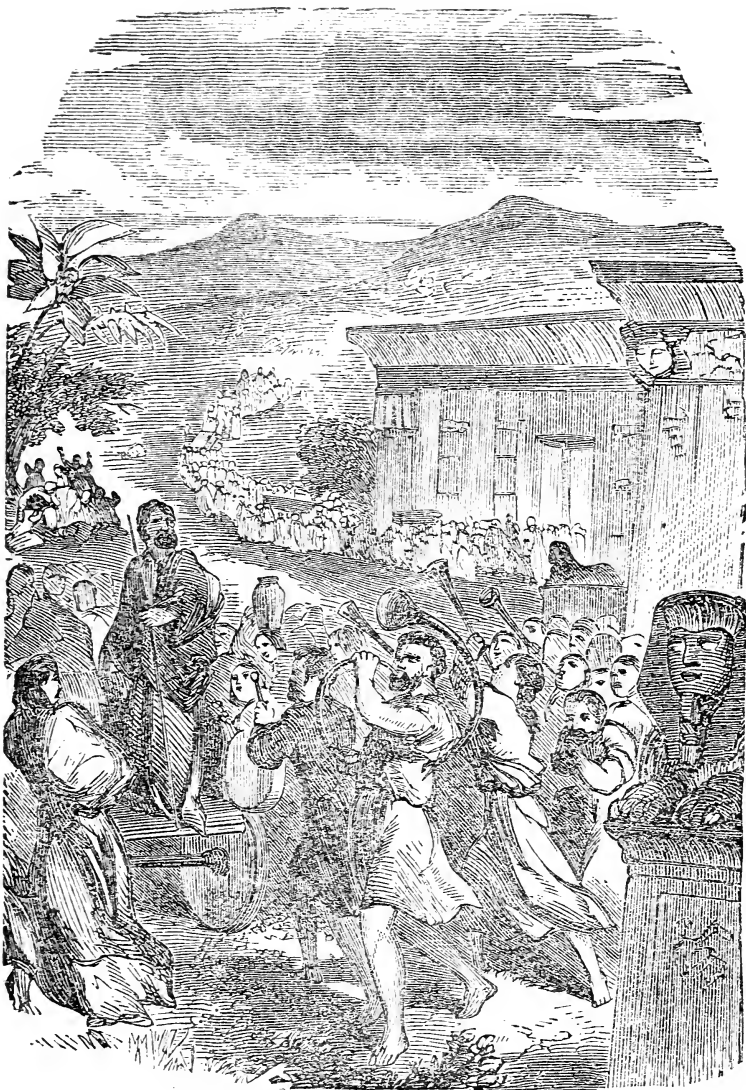
LESSON TWENTY-SEVENTH.

PASSAGE OF THE RED SEA.

WHEN the immense army of the Israelites, with their women, and children, and cattle, marched out of Egypt, they had not merely Moses for their leader, but God himself made known his presence among them. This he did by a pillar of cloud which went before them in the day time, and by a pillar of fire, which gave them light and the assurance of his presence during the night.

They had journeyed three days through the wilderness, and had reached the borders of the Red Sea, when great alarm and terror spread through the camp. This was caused by the appearance of king Pharaoh with a large army, who were close at hand.

It seems that the proud and haughty tyrant had already forgotten the terrible plagues with which he and his people had been visited, and repented of his act in letting the Israelites leave the country. So in hot pursuit he hurried after them, with the intention to bring them back and continue them in a state of slavery.



LEAVING EGYPT.



Neither on the right hand nor on the left does there seem any way of escape for the affrighted Israelites. There are no boats by which they may cross the roaring sea before them. They feel utterly unable to meet the enemy and fight for their freedom.

The hosts of Pharaoh are well-armed soldiers, eager for the blood of the fugitives. The Israelites have no weapons. If they had they knew not how to use them. As a consequence of their long degradation in the house of bondage, they are timid, and, worse than all, they lose confidence in Moses and in God, although his presence was still manifested in the fiery cloud which hung over them.

They begin to upbraid Moses for bringing them out of Egypt. They accuse him of being the author of this dreadful calamity, and declare that it would have been better for them to have remained slaves to the Egyptians, than to have come out to die there in the wilderness.

In the midst of all this tumult Moses is calm. He does not even reproach them for their ingratitude and cowardice. With a loud voice he cries unto the people: "Fear

not; God will fight for you. Stand still and see the salvation of God."

But Moses himself did not know by what means the people were to be saved. He called upon God in prayer, and this was the answer he received: "Speak to the children of Israel that they go forward." Then, as he was directed, he stretched his rod over the sea, and the Lord, by his almighty power, made a passage for them through the waters, and they all crossed over in safety.

Then the hosts of Egypt tried to do the same thing, and when they were in the midst of the passage, Moses, from the other shore, again waved his rod, and the returning waters engulfed the entire Egyptian army. Not one escaped, and the Israelites united in a song of triumphant praise to their great deliverer.

HYMN.

God's arm hath safely brought us
A way no more expected,
Than when his sheep passed through the deep
By crystal walls protected.

His glory was our rearward,
His hand our lives did cover;

And we, even we, have passed the sea,
And marched triumphant over.

Accepting our deliverance,
We triumph in his favor;
And for the love which now we prove,
Will praise his name forever.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXVII.

1. Who was the leader of the Israelites when they came out of Egypt?
2. Who also made known his presence among them?
3. How did the Lord make known his presence?
4. What went before them in the day-time?
5. How was God's presence made known at night?
6. How many days had they traveled at this time?
7. What point had they reached in their journey?
8. What happened then?
9. What was the cause of this alarm?
10. What does Pharaoh seem already to have forgotten?
11. Of what did he repent?
12. What is now his intention?
13. What is said about a way of escape?
14. What about crossing the Red Sea?
15. What is said of the hosts of Pharaoh?
16. In what respects did the Israelites differ from the Egyptians?
17. What resulted as a consequence of their long degradation?

18. In whom did they lose confidence?
19. Had the symbol of God's presence disappeared?
20. Of what do they now accuse Moses?
21. What do they say would have been better for them?
22. In the midst of this tumult how does Moses appear?
23. With what cheering language does he address them?
24. Of what was Moses ignorant at the time?
25. What did he then do?
26. What was the answer to his prayer?
27. What was he then directed to do?
28. What result followed?
29. Who attempted to do as the Israelites had done?
30. What did Moses then do?
31. And what then occurred?
32. How many of the Egyptians escaped destruction?



LESSON TWENTY-EIGHTH.

THE MANNA IN THE WILDERNESS.

FROM the dead bodies of the Egyptians which were thrown by the waves on the shore, the Israelites obtained a great deal of wealth, as well as arms, with which their strong men equipped themselves. Then the whole body took their departure in the course indicated by the cloudy pillar which still hung over them.

Under the heat of the sun in that dreary desert, they began to feel the want of water; and when near the end of a three days' journey they came to a stream the waters of which were bitter and not fit to drink. Moses, under the direction of the Lord, cast a certain kind of tree into the stream, by means of which the water was made sweet, and the people slaked their raging thirst.

Of course it was not the tree that sweetened the bitter water of Marah, as it is called, but the power of Israel's God exerted in their behalf.

But soon a far more wonderful display of God's power and goodness was exhibited. The provisions which the people had brought with them were exhausted. But a very scanty supply of food could be found in the wilderness. They began to suffer from hunger. Then it was that God wrought the most surprising miracle that the world has ever witnessed.

On the morning of the fifteenth day of the second month after their departure from Egypt, they found scattered all over the encampment an abundance of food to which they gave the name manna. Moses

calls it the bread which the Lord gave them, and in one of the Psalms it is called angel's food.

What makes this miracle so remarkable, is not only the fact that the manna fell in such abundance as to supply food for so large a multitude, but that it continued to fall for so long a time. On each successive morning, for six days in every week, during forty successive years, the manna fell, and the wants of the people were satisfied.

But the manna required labor on the part of the people. Every morning each head of a family went forth and gathered enough for the day's supply of his household. Then it had to be ground and baked, the Almighty thus teaching them that although he could supply them with food he would not do it in such a way as to encourage them in idleness.

It is to be remembered that the manna fell from day to day. There was only enough for the supply of one day at a time, with the exception of the day before the Sabbath. On that day there fell a double supply, for none was to be seen in all the wilderness on the day which God sanctified as a day of rest.

Thus God taught them by this ever-recurring miracle their constant dependence on him for their daily bread, and also reminded them of his will that they should keep holy the Sabbath day.

HYMN.

Lord of nature, source of light,
View in love thy world below;
Guide our erring footsteps right,
Through these scenes of guilt and woe.

Grant thy Spirit! By thy kindness
Let our errors be forgiven;
Heal our sins; dispel our blindness;
Then conduct us safe to heaven.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXVIII.

1. How did the Israelites obtain wealth and weapons?
2. By what means were they directed as to the proper course?
3. Of what did they soon feel the want?
4. What was the character of the country through which they passed?
5. To what did they come at the end of their third day's journey.
6. What kind of water was it?
7. What did Moses then do?
8. By whose direction was this done?
9. What effect was produced on the water?

10. What was this stream of bitter water called?
11. Was it owing to any virtue in the tree that the water was made sweet?
12. What is said was next exhibited?
13. What were by this time exhausted?
14. What was to be found in the wilderness?
15. From what did the people begin to suffer?
16. What is said of this miracle?
17. What was the food called which they found about the camp?
18. What did Moses call it?
19. What is it called in one of the Psalms?
20. When did they first find manna?
21. What two things are mentioned as making this miracle remarkable?
22. Do you remember how many people it is supposed there were?
23. For how long a time did the manna continue to fall?
24. What did the manna require on the part of the people?
25. What did God thus teach the people?
26. What is further said of the falling of the manna?
27. On what day of the week had they a double supply?
28. Why did they need a double supply on that day?
29. What did God teach them by this ever-recurring miracle?
30. And of what were they reminded by this miracle?

LESSON TWENTY-NINTH.

THE DAY OF PENTECOST.

IN the progress of this history we now meet with a man of whom much is said in the Bible. His name is Joshua. He belonged to the tribe of Ephraim and, on account of his bravery he was made captain of the army of Israel.

At a place called Rephidim, a tribe of people called the Amalekites made war upon Israel, and a bloody battle took place. This was the first time the Israelites had been so molested by any of the people in the wilderness as to be under the necessity of fighting.

Led on by Joshua, they defeated the enemy with great slaughter, and took from them much spoil, including gold and silver, clothing and armor.

This place, Rephidim, is memorable not only for this great battle, but for a miracle performed by Moses, under the direction of the Lord.

The people were parched with thirst, and could find no water. They were loud in

their complaints, and Moses feared that, in their anger, they would stone him to death. Then he called upon God in prayer, who told him to take his rod and smite upon a rock. This he did, and an abundance of pure water gushed forth in sufficient quantities to supply their need during the time they stayed in that place.

From the New Testament we learn that this rock, from which water flowed in the desert, was a type of Jesus Christ; and that the abundant supply of the wants of the people represented the fullness of his grace and mercy. The apostle Paul says expressly: "That rock was Christ." (1 Cor. x, 4.)

Fifty days have now passed since the sacrifice of the paschal lamb on the night previous to the departure of the Israelites from Egypt. They have encamped in the neighborhood of a mountain called Mount Sinai. On that day there were thunderings and lightnings, and a noise as of the sound of a trumpet heard from the mountain, which caused all the people to quake for fear.

And the Lord descended in fire upon the top of the mountain, and his voice was heard calling his servant Moses. And

Moses, trembling and afraid, went up. There God gave to him the Ten Commandments, which were designed not only for the Israelites, but for all people in all ages. Hence they are called the Moral Law; and Jesus Christ, when he came into the world, enjoined them as a rule of conduct for all men.

As we have seen, this wonderful event took place on the fiftieth day from the sacrifice of the paschal Lamb. From that time God's people observed the day as the feast of Pentecost, in memory of the giving of the law amid the thunders and lightnings of Sinai.

It is a remarkable fact, and worthy to be remembered, that in the New Dispensation it was just fifty days after the sacrifice of Jesus Christ that the Holy Spirit was poured out, an account of which is given in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles; so that the day of Pentecost commemorates both these wonderful events.

HYMN.

How many and great are the foes which infest
The way through this world to the Canaan of rest!
The traveller ever his Lord would obey,
Yet oft is discouraged because of the way.

In Christ inexhaustible treasures are stored,
And Jesus will suitable blessings afford;
Then why should the pilgrim be filled with dismay?
Or why be discouraged because of the way?

Unquenchable love and omnipotent power
Will land him ere long on the heavenly shore;
There pleasure eternal will amply repay
For all the discouragements found in the way.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXIX.

1. What was the name of the man to whom we are now introduced?
2. To which of the tribes did Joshua belong?
3. What office did he hold?
4. On what account was he made captain?
5. What tribe of people made war against Israel?
6. At what place was this?
7. What is said of this battle?
8. By whom were the Israelites led?
9. Who conquered in this engagement?
10. What did the conquerors take from the defeated Amalekites?
11. For what else is Rephidim noted?
12. What was the condition of the people?
13. What did they threaten to do to Moses?
14. What did Moses then do?
15. How was the miracle performed?
16. What was the result?
17. Of whom was this rock a type?

18. What was represented by the abundant supply of water?
19. Where does the apostle say that rock was Christ?
20. How many days had now elapsed since the Pass-over?
21. Where had the Israelites now encamped?
22. What were heard from the mountain?
23. What was the effect produced on the people?
24. Who descended in fire upon the top of the mount?
25. What was then heard?
26. How did Moses feel when he went up?
27. What did God give him while there?
28. For whom were these commandments intended?
29. What are the Ten Commandments sometimes called?
30. What was done by Christ when he came into the world?
31. What was commemorated by the day of Pentecost?
32. What event recorded in the New Testament is here alluded to?
33. Where do we find an account of what happened on the day of Pentecost?

LESSON THIRTIETH.

THE GOLDEN CALF.

MOSES was forty days on Mount Sinai in communion with God, from whom he received not only the Ten Commandments, which were written on two tablets of stone,



but rules and regulations for the government of the people.

As he staid there so long the people became impatient. They said, We know not what has become of him; and at their request Aaron made for them a golden calf, that, like the Egyptians, they might have some visible idol to worship. And they did bow down and worship this image, calling it a god.

Then the Lord was angry and would

have destroyed them all, but Moses prayed for them and their sin was forgiven ; but, at the command of God, about three thousand of those who were the leaders in this abominable idolatry were put to death.

And Moses took the golden calf which they had made and ground it to powder, and strewed it on the water which the Israelites were obliged to drink.

About this time, under the direction of the Lord, a tabernacle was built. This was a moveable temple, which was carried from place to place in their journeyings, and in which the worship of God was conducted.

To attend to this worship, and to have charge of all things connected with it, the Levites, that is, the descendants of Levi, were now set apart. To the tribe of Levi both Moses and Aaron belonged, but the special honors of the priesthood were confined to Aaron and his sons. Previously, the first born of each family had filled the priestly office.

Among the duties of the priests was the offering of sacrifices, the blood of animals being shed to prefigure the atonement hereafter to be made by the blood of Christ, who is called the Lamb of God. The

priests also burned incense, trimmed the lamps of the golden candlesticks, and kept a fire perpetually burning upon the altar.

This fire which burned upon the altar was of celestial origin. It had come from heaven, and was to be kept burning continually, day and night. The two sons of Aaron, whose names were Nadab and Abihu, in violation of God's command, offered strange fire, that is, common fire, fire not of celestial origin, before the Lord.

A sudden and dreadful punishment overtook them. There came forth fire from the Lord and consumed them. And Aaron bowed in humble submission to this terrible visitation from the Almighty, for he knew that his sons deserved to die for their willful violation of God's commandment.

HYMN.

My God, my Father, while I stray,
Far from my home, on life's rough way,
O teach me from my heart to say,
"Thy will be done!"

If but my fainting heart be blest
With thy sweet Spirit for its guest,
My God, to thee I leave the rest:
"Thy will be done!"

Renew my will from day to day;
 Blend it with thine, and take away
 Whate'er now makes it hard to say,
 "Thy will be done!"

Then when on earth I breathe no more
 The prayer oft mixed with tears before,
 I'll sing upon a happier shore,
 "Thy will be done!"

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXX.

1. How long was Moses on Mount Sinai in communion with God?
2. What did Moses receive from God at that time?
3. On what were the Ten Commandments written?
4. What effect did his long stay produce on the people?
5. What did they say?
6. What did they request Aaron to do?
7. For what purpose did they want a golden calf?
8. From whom did the Israelites learn the worship of idols?
9. What did they call this golden calf?
10. What did the Lord threaten to do?
11. At whose intercession was their sin forgiven?
12. How many of them were put to death on this occasion?
13. What was done with this golden image?
14. What was set up about this time?
15. Who gave directions as to the building of the tabernacle?
16. What was this tabernacle?

17. Whose duty was it to take charge of the tabernacle?
18. To which of the tribes did Moses and Aaron belong?
19. To whom were the special honors of the priesthood confined?
20. What is first mentioned as a duty of the priests?
21. What did the shedding of the blood of animals prefigure?
22. By what designation is Christ recognized?
23. What other duties did the priests perform?
24. What was the origin of the fire that burned upon the altar?
25. What was the command concerning it?
26. What were the names of Aaron's two sons here mentioned?
27. What did they offer before the Lord?
28. What do you understand by strange fire?
29. What suddenly overtook them?
30. How were they put to death?
31. How did Aaron receive this afflictive blow?
32. Why was he submissive?



LESSON THIRTY-FIRST.

THE PILLAR OF FIRE.

THE Israelites remained nearly a year in the neighborhood of Mount Sinai. During that time they received from God a code of laws by which they were to be governed.

These laws relate to all the circumstances of life, and, unlike the Moral Law, were designed for that people only. They are to be found in the book of Leviticus, and are frequently spoken of as the Levitical, and sometimes as the ceremonial law.

Before the Israelites left Mount Sinai, Moses took the number of the people. The tribe of Judah was found to be the most numerous; and the total number, in the twelve tribes, of the men over twenty years of age that were able to go forth to war, was six hundred and three thousand five hundred and fifty.

This shows a most remarkable increase, as there were but seventy of them when they first went down into Egypt, and there, as we have seen, their lives had latterly been one continued scene of hardship and oppression.

About seven weeks after the erection of the tabernacle the command was given to resume the march through the desert of Paran, toward Canaan, the land which God had promised to give them for an inheritance.

As before, the pillar of cloud and of fire, which indicated God's presence, still con-

tinued with them, with this difference, that now, in all their journeyings, the cloud rested over the tabernacle while they were encamped, and was taken up and went before them while on the march. This cloudy and fiery pillar was their signal to rest and to go forward. If the pillar remained stationary for a month, or even for a year, the Israelites remained in their tents, and only when it was taken up they journeyed.

They had gone but a short distance when many of them began to murmur and find fault. They were tired, they said, of living upon manna. They wanted flesh to eat. It was well with us, they said, when we were in Egypt. There we had flesh. They pretend to have forgotten their affliction and their cruel treatment in that land.

Then the Lord was angry with them; but he said to Moses, I will give them flesh to eat for a whole month. Even Moses began to doubt if God could do this, and he asked if the flocks and the herds were to be slain for the purpose. And the Lord said, Thou shalt see if my word will come to pass or not.

Then, by a wind from the Lord, an immense number of quails were brought in and around the encampment. These were

easily caught and found to be delicious food. But on account of the murmurings of the people, the wrath of the Lord was kindled against them, and he sent among them a deadly plague, by which many perished.

HYMN.

By day, along the astonished sands,
The cloudy pillar glided slow ;
By night, Arabia's crimson'd sands
Returned the fiery column's glow.

Thus present still, though now unseen,
When brightly shines the prosperous day,
Be thoughts of Thee a cloudy screen,
To temper the deceitful ray.

And O, when gathers on our path,
In shade and storm, the frequent night,
Be thou long-suffering, slow to wrath,
A burning and a shining light.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXXI.

1. How long did the Israelites remain near Mount Sinai ?
2. What did God give them while there ?
3. To what do these laws relate ?
4. In what respect were these laws unlike the ten commandments ?
5. Where are these laws to be found ?

6. What are they called?
7. What was done before they left Mount Sinai?
8. Which of the tribes was found to be the most numerous?
9. What was the number of fighting men in the twelve tribes?
10. What does this exhibit?
11. How many were there when they first went down into Egypt?
12. How long ago was that?
13. What was their condition while in Egypt?
14. How soon after the erection of the tabernacle did they again depart?
15. What was the name of the wilderness through which their route lay?
16. Why did they journey toward Canaan?
17. How was God's presence among them manifested?
18. Where did the cloud rest while they were encamped?
19. When it was taken up what did they do?
20. If the cloud remained a long time over the tabernacle, what then?
21. What is next said of many of the people?
22. Of what did they say they were tired?
23. What did they want?
24. What did they say about Egypt?
25. What do they pretend to have forgotten?
26. What then said the Lord to Moses?
27. How did Moses receive this declaration?
28. What reply did the Lord make to Moses?
29. How were the quails brought among the people?
30. What was done with those birds?
31. What followed?

LESSON THIRTY-SECOND.

CALEB AND JOSHUA.

AND now, the prospect is that the wanderings of God's people are near their end. They have come to the neighborhood of the land of Canaan.

Then Moses sent twelve chosen men, one from each tribe, to spy out the land. They were directed to examine the country and the people, the soil and its productions, and to bring back a true report.

The spies remained in Canaan forty days. Then they returned and brought with them some of the fruits of the land, grapes, and figs, and pomegranates. "It is," said they, "a goodly land; it flows with milk and honey. But the men that dwell in the land are strong, and their cities are walled. There are giants among them, and we are not able to go up against them."

Then the people were greatly alarmed. Fear took possession of them. They forgot that God was with them, and that he would fight against their foes. They lifted up their voices and wept. Two of the

spies, Joshua and Caleb, tried to encourage them. They said, "It is a goodly land, and the Lord will give it to us. Rebel not against the Lord, and fear not the people of the land. We are well able to go up and take possession of it."

But the people would not listen. They even threatened to stone Caleb and Joshua to death. And they said, "Let us appoint another captain instead of Moses, and let us go back to Egypt."

It is not strange that with this conduct God was very greatly displeased. At first he threatened to put them all to death by sending a pestilence among them, and to make Moses the father of a greater nation; but that meek man of God prayed for them, and through his intercession the Almighty changed his purpose.

They were permitted to live, but condemned to wander for forty years through the wilderness. With only two exceptions, Caleb and Joshua, the men of that generation who were above twenty years of age were all doomed to die in the wilderness, and the land of promise was to be given to their children.

This was a severe punishment, but it was

well deserved, and those whose lives were thus spared had no right to complain. The spies who brought the evil report, and who thus led the people into the sin of unbelief and of rebellion against God, were suddenly smitten down and struck dead. Thus this lesson, which began with such joyous prospects, ends in sadness and gloom.

HYMN.

Come, let us hear God's voice to-day,
The counsels of his love obey;
Nor let our hardened hearts renew
The sins and plagues that Israel knew.

As we look back with holy dread,
And see the hosts of Israel dead,
Let us accept his grace to-day,
Nor lose the blessing by delay.

Accept the promise while it waits,
And march to Zion's heavenly gates;
Believe, and take the promised rest;
Obey, and be forever blest.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXXII.

1. What is the prospect at the commencement of this lesson?
2. Into what neighborhood have the Israelites come?
3. How many men did Moses select to spy out the land?

4. What were these spies directed to do?
5. How long did the spies remain in the land of Canaan?
6. When they returned, what did they bring with them?
7. What did they say of the land?
8. What do you understand by its flowing with milk and honey?
9. What did the spies say of the men of Canaan?
10. What did they say of their cities?
11. What did they say about giants?
12. How did these things affect the Israelites?
13. What do they appear to have forgotten?
14. Who tried to encourage them?
15. What did Caleb and Joshua say?
16. How did the people receive their advice?
17. What did they threaten to do to Caleb and Joshua?
18. For what purpose did they propose to appoint another captain?
19. What is said not to be strange?
20. What did the Lord threaten to do?
21. How were the people saved from this destruction?
22. What is Moses here called?
23. What were the people condemned to do?
24. Who were excepted from this condemnation?
25. Who were doomed to die in the wilderness?
26. Who, then, should inherit and possess the promised land?
27. What is said of the punishment to which the people were doomed?
28. Into what did the spies who brought the evil report lead the people?
29. What became of them?
30. How does this lesson end?

LESSON THIRTY-THIRD.

AARON'S ROD.

SOME time after the declaration of the Almighty, that the Israelites should wander forty years in the desert before entering the promised land, there was a conspiracy formed against Moses. Its object was to take from him the power which God had given him, and perhaps to put him to death.

There were more than two hundred and fifty who were banded together for this purpose. Their leader was a man of the tribe of Levi by the name of Korah.

The conspiracy was speedily crushed by the sudden and terrible death of all who were engaged in it. The ground clave asunder and swallowed up the leaders of the party, and fire from heaven consumed the rest.

This sudden calamity, so evidently from the hand of God, filled most of the people with dismay for a season. But in a little while many of them seem to have forgotten their terror, and they began to charge the death of those men upon Moses and Aaron, and refused to see in it the finger of the

Almighty. As a punishment God sent a contagious disease among them, which seemed as if it would carry them all off. But by the intercession of Aaron the plague was stayed after the death of more than fourteen thousand.

These murmurings of the people seem to have been mainly on account of Aaron, whom they charged with taking too much upon himself as the high priest. By a special miracle God showed them that it was by his appointment that Aaron held this office.

This was the miracle: For each of the twelve tribes a rod was placed in the tabernacle inscribed with the name of the tribe to which it belonged. For the tribe of Levi Aaron's rod was taken. On the next day behold his rod had budded and blossomed, and brought forth almonds, while all the others remained as they were. Thus God made known his will as to the priesthood, and this rod of Aaron's was laid up in the tabernacle, and afterward in the temple, to be a memorial of the miracle.

Several years of the journeyings of the people passed away of which we have no account. Toward the latter end of their

wanderings they encamped at a place called Kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin. Here Miriam, the sister of Moses, died. She was ten years older than Moses, and is supposed to have been one hundred and thirty at the time of her death.

It was while the people remained in this place that they suffered for want of water, and another miracle was wrought. Moses smote the rock, and streams in abundance gushed forth. Here it was that Moses spake rashly with his lips, and both he and Aaron forgot to give to the Lord all the glory of the miracle. They said: "Ye rebels, must *we* fetch you water out of this rock?"

And now, about four months after the death of Miriam, Aaron is called to his heavenly home. The people had left Kadesh and come unto Mount Hor, on the coast of the land of Edom. There on that mountain Aaron calmly breathed his last, and his son Eleazar succeeded him as the high priest.

HYMN.

A few more days preserve me here;
And when from earth my spirit flies,
O let a child of thine be near,
A child of God, to close mine eyes.

Before its strong arrest I feel
Give me my death's approach to see;
And having lived to serve thy will,
Lord, let me then depart in thee.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXXIII.

1. What is said to have been formed against Moses?
2. What was the object of the conspiracy?
3. How many men entered into this conspiracy?
4. To which of the tribes did the leader of this conspiracy belong?
5. What was his name?
6. How was the conspiracy crushed?
7. What became of the leaders of the party?
8. How were the others destroyed?
9. What effect did this judgment produce on the people?
10. How long was it before they forgot their terror?
11. What did they then do?
12. What punishment ensued?
13. How many died of this plague?
14. By whose intercession was it stayed?
15. What seems to have been the principal cause of these murmurs?
16. With what did they charge Aaron?
17. How did God justify Aaron?
18. Relate the miracle which was then wrought.
19. What became of that rod of Aaron's?

20. What is said of several years of their journeyings?
21. What happened while they were at Kadesh?
22. Was she older or younger than Moses, and how much?
23. What was her age at the time of her death?
24. For want of what did the people suffer at this place?
25. How were their wants supplied?
26. What is it said that Moses here did?
27. What did he and Aaron forget?
28. Do you remember the language they used?
29. How long after Miriam's death did Aaron die?
30. Where did Aaron die?
31. Who succeeded him as high priest?



LESSON THIRTY-FOURTH.

THE DEATH OF MOSES.

PASSING onward in their route, the Israelites enter a district of country where many of the people were bitten by fiery serpents, and died in consequence. By direction from heaven, Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it on a pole. Those who were bitten were directed to look upon this brazen serpent, and all who did so lived.

To this serpent Jesus refers in the third chapter of John's Gospel, and teaches us that as those who were bitten recovered by

looking upon it, so sinners are saved by looking unto Jesus, who was lifted up on the cross for man's salvation.

This happened in the last year of their wanderings; and soon after they had a battle with the Amorites, whom they defeated with great slaughter. Soon after Og, the king of Bashan, who was of such a remarkable stature that he was considered a giant, came against them with a powerful army. They too were speedily routed by the hosts of Israel.

Now, flushed with victory, they enter upon the land of the Moabites, who were terrified at their approach, and Balak their king sent for Balaam, who seems to have been regarded as a prophet. The request of the king was that Balaam would curse the people, and thus render them an easy prey to his army.

But Balaam being overruled by the God of Israel, instead of cursing, blessed the people. "How," said he, "shall I curse those whom God hath not cursed. How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O Israel. Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee."

Being thus disappointed, and fearful of engaging in battle with the Israelites, Balak endeavored to lead them into idolatry. He and his people worshiped an idol called Baal, and many of the Israelites were seduced by them into the same worship. On this account God was angry, and twenty-four thousand perished by a pestilence sent among them. This severity led the rest to repentance, and God forgave their sin.

Still another victory was gained by Israel. This was over a powerful tribe known as the Midianites. They were defeated with great ease, and a large amount of spoils fell to the conquerors.

And now the life of Moses draws to an end. He is told to go up to the top of a mountain called Nebo, from which he has a view of the promised land. There, after blessing the people, at the age of one hundred and twenty years, his spirit takes its happy flight to that heavenly inheritance of which Canaan was but a type and a shadow.

He was by far the most eminent man of whom we read in the Old Testament. There arose not since in Israel a man like unto Moses, whom the Lord knew face to

face. After he was dead God buried his body in a sepulcher of which no man knoweth unto this day.

HYMN.

Sweet was the journey to the sky
The holy prophet tried ;
Climb up the mount, said God, and die ;
The prophet climbed and died.

Safely his fainting head he lay
Upon his Maker's breast ;
His Maker kissed his soul away
And laid his flesh to rest.

In God's own arms he left the breath
That God's own Spirit gave ;
His was the noblest road to death,
And his the sweetest grave.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXXIV.

1. What is the first thing mentioned in this lesson ?
2. What was made by Moses ?
3. Who directed him to do this ?
4. Who in the New Testament refers to this serpent ?
5. Can you state what Christ says on this subject ?
6. What effect was produced by looking at the brazen serpent ?
7. To whom are sinners invited to look in order to be saved ?
8. In what year of their wanderings did this occur ?

9. With what people did the Israelites have a battle about this time?
10. What was the result of that battle?
11. Who next came against them?
12. What is said of Og?
13. What was the result of the engagement with the king of Bashan?
14. Into whose territory do the Israelites then pass?
15. Who was king of the Moabites at this time?
16. For what purpose did the king send for Balaam?
17. How was Balaam regarded?
18. Why did not Balaam do as the king requested?
19. Can you repeat what Balaam said?
20. What did the king of Moab then endeavor to do?
21. Whom did he and his people worship?
22. Did any Israelites fall into this idolatry?
23. How many perished by a pestilence sent among them?
24. What effect did this pestilence produce on the others?
25. With whom did the Israelites next engage in battle?
26. Who were victorious?
27. What fell to the conquerors?
28. What is Moses now told to do?
29. Of what does he have a view from the top of Mount Nebo?
30. How old was Moses at his death?
31. What is said of his character?
32. And what of the burial of his body?

LESSON THIRTY-FIFTH.

THE WALLS OF JERICH O.

ON the death of Moses the Lord appointed Joshua to be the leader of the people. He belonged to the tribe of Ephraim, and is the same man of whom we heard in a former lesson as one of those who were sent by Moses to spy out the promised land.

To Joshua God made special promises of his care and protection. "As I was with Moses," said he, "so will I be with thee, and there shall not be any man able to stand against thee." The people ratified the appointment, and received Joshua as their leader, promising a ready obedience to all his commands.

The Israelites were now on the bank of the river Jordan, and Joshua sent spies across the river to a city called Jericho, which, having examined, they returned with the intelligence that the people were filled with fear, and that the city could easily be taken.

All necessary preparation having been made, the Israelitish army is put in motion.

The priests, bearing the ark of the covenant, go first, and as soon as their feet touch the water of the river God's miraculous power is exerted, and a passage is made, by which the whole host pass over dry-shod.

Now within the promised land, they encamp at a place called Gilgal, near Jericho. Here they keep the feast of the Passover for the fortieth time since its institution; and here the manna, which has been their food for so long a time, ceases to fall.

After a few days of rest, the Lord said to Joshua, "I have given into thy hand the city of Jericho." He then told them by what means the city was to be taken, and the people followed the directions which were given.

The men of war, in military array, but in perfect silence, began their march around the city. Led by seven of the priests, each blowing a trumpet, the mass of the people followed. No noise was heard, save only the sound of the trumpets. For six successive days they made this circuit once around the city, while the inhabitants, panic-struck within the walls, made no opposition to this strange procession,

On the seventh day they marched around the city seven times, and at the close of the last round the whole army set up a loud shout, and the walls of Jericho fell to the ground. Then the Israelites took the city, and, being directed by the Almighty, they utterly destroyed all that was therein, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword.

From this terrible slaughter only one family escaped. It was that of Rahab, who had treated the spies sent over by Joshua with kindness, and had given them the information they desired.

The account of the destruction of this city is confirmed by the apostle, who also attributes it to the miraculous interposition of the Almighty. By faith, he says, the walls of Jericho fell down; and, by faith, Rahab perished not with them that believed not. (Heb. xi, 30, 31.)

HYMN.

Though nature's strength decay,
And earth and hell withstand,
To Canaan's bounds I urge my way
At His command.

The goodly land I see,
With peace and plenty blest;

A land of sacred liberty
And endless rest.

There milk and honey flow,
And oil and wine abound;
And trees of life forever grow
With mercy crowned.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXXV.

1. Who succeeded Moses as leader of the Jewish people?
2. By whom was Joshua appointed to this office?
3. To what tribe did Joshua belong?
4. Have we heard of him before, and in what capacity?
5. What did God give to Joshua?
6. Can you repeat any of those promises?
7. How did the people receive the appointment of Joshua?
8. Where were the Israelites at this time?
9. What was the name of the city on the other side of Jordan?
10. What report did the spies who were sent there bring back to Joshua?
11. By what means did the Israelites pass the river Jordan.
12. Where were they when they had crossed the river?
13. What was the place called at which they encamped?
14. Near what city was it?

15. What did they do here?
16. How long before this was the feast of the passover instituted?
17. What is here said of the manna which God gave them for food?
18. What then did the Lord say to Joshua?
19. How did Joshua know by what means the city was to be taken?
20. Did the people follow the directions which were given?
21. Who led the procession around the walls of the city?
22. For how many days did this march about the city continue?
23. How many times did they go round the city on the seventh day?
24. What then took place?
25. Under whose direction did the Israelites act in the slaughter that ensued?
26. Whom did they destroy?
27. Who escaped from this slaughter?
28. What had Rahab done to deserve this exemption?
29. By whom is this account confirmed?
30. Can you repeat Hebrews xi, verses 30 and 31?

LESSON THIRTY-SIXTH.

THE DEATH OF JOSHUA.

Soon after the conquest of Jericho, the Lord made known his presence among the people by a defeat which they suffered in an attack made upon a city called Ai. Three thousand of them were repelled, and an inquiry was made as to the cause.

And God said, "It is because a sin has been committed." He then gave directions as to the mode by which the guilty one was to be detected. They followed his directions, and a man named Achan, of the tribe of Judah, was found to have taken and hidden in his tent, for his own use, a wedge of gold and other things found by him at the destruction of Jericho.

On account of the crime of this one man, God had punished the whole nation by withholding his help in the day of battle. By special direction from the Lord, Achan was put to death.

Then Joshua and his army, by the aid of miracles, went on from one conquest to another, until all the chief cities in the

southern part of Canaan were subdued, and the tribes of the people who possessed them were conquered.

At length several kings united their forces, and an immense army was assembled to give battle to the men of Israel. And the Lord said unto Joshua, "Fear them not, for I will deliver them into thy hand." And so it was. In the thickest of the fight the Lord sent down great hail-stones, which caused the death of a greater number than fell by the sword of the Israelites.

On that day occurred one of the most surprising miracles that has ever been witnessed in our world. There was no day like that, before it nor since. The sun stood still in the midst of heaven for many hours, while the victorious Israelites utterly subdued the combined enemy, and destroyed their armies.

In all these wars it must be remembered that it was the Lord himself who had the direction, and that it was by his command that the nations which had inhabited Canaan were put to death. They had been for a long time great and grievous sinners. The cup of their iniquities was full, and God

made the Israelites his instrument for their punishment.

The Israelites were now in possession of the promised land, and Joshua divided it among the twelve tribes, giving to each its portion and establishing its boundaries. But they had not wholly destroyed the Canaanites as the Lord had directed them. In various parts of the land many were still to be found who afterward became a source of trouble and annoyance.

And now the end of the good and great Joshua is at hand. He calls together the elders of Israel and gives them advice for their future conduct. "Fear the Lord," said he, "and serve him. If ye forsake the Lord and serve strange gods the Lord will do you hurt and consume you." And all the people said, "The Lord is our God, and him we will serve, and his voice we will obey."

Then Joshua, at the age of one hundred and ten, passed sweetly to his rest. His character is one of the most faultless that has been drawn by the pen of inspiration, and at his death all Israel mourned for him.

HYMN.

How blest the righteous when he dies !
When sinks a weary soul to rest !
How mildly beam the closing eyes !
How gently heaves th' expiring breast !

So fades the summer cloud away ;
So sinks the gale when storms are o'er ;
So gently shuts the eye of day ;
So dies a wave along the shore.

Life's labor done, as sinks the clay,
Light from its load the spirit flies ;
While heaven and earth combine to say,
How blest the righteous when he dies !

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXXVI.

1. What was the name of the city next attacked by the Israelites ?
2. What was the result of that attack ?
3. How many of them went to the attack of that city ?
4. Why was Israel defeated on this occasion ?
5. Who gives directions how they might detect the guilty party ?
6. Who was detected ?
7. What had Achan done ?
8. How had God punished the nation for Achan's sin ?
9. What became of Achan ?
10. After this what progress did Joshua's army make ?
11. What part of Canaan was first subdued ?
12. Who then gave battle to the Israelites ?
13. How was Joshua encouraged to go and meet them ?

14. By what means did the Lord help Israel?
15. What is said of the miracle which then took place?
16. What was the miracle?
17. How long did the sun stand still?
18. How were the Israelites engaged while the sun stood still?
19. Who had the direction of all these wars?
20. By whose command were the Canaanites put to death?
21. What had been the character of the Canaanites?
22. Who were made instruments for their punishment?
23. Of what were the Israelites now in possession?
24. Who made the division of the land among the twelve tribes?
25. Were the Canaanites entirely extirpated?
26. What did those who remained afterward become?
27. What did Joshua when his departure was near?
28. What special injunction did he give to the people?
29. What reply did they make?
30. How old was Joshua at the time of his death?
31. What is said of his character?
32. How did the Israelites evince their respect for him?



LESSON THIRTY-SEVENTH.

DEBORAH THE PROPHETESS.

AFTER the death of Joshua the evil consequences of not destroying the Canaanitish nations were for a long time visible. Fre-

quently, in one part of the land or another, the Israelites were led away from the worship of the true God, and fell into the idolatrous practices of the people of Canaan. For these sins punishment was permitted to overtake them. These punishments were the defeat of their armies by the enemy, and occasional subjection. As had been told them, the people among whom they dwelt became "scourges in their sides and thorns in their eyes."

But although the Lord thus punished them for their national sins, he was ever ready to hear their cry; and when with penitence they sought his face, he raised up for them one deliverer after another.

Joshua had named no one to succeed him as leader of the people, and it is not known by what means God revealed his will as to the selection for that office. Those who held it were called judges.

The first who bore this title was a nephew of Caleb, by name Othniel. He was raised up to this office by the Lord at a time when, for their idolatry, the Israelites were suffering severely from the tyranny of the Canaanites. Othniel appears to have been not only a good man, but a brave soldier.

He gained several victories over the enemies of his country, and restored the people to their independence.

Othniel was succeeded by Ehud, a left-handed man of the tribe of Benjamin. His reign was memorable chiefly for a great victory over the Moabites, in which ten thousand of the enemy were put to the sword, and then followed the long period of eighty years of peace and prosperity.

Shamgar was the next judge. In his time the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, and he forsook them, and permitted them to be defeated by Jabin, one of the Canaanitish kings, who reigned in Hazor, who mightily oppressed them for twenty years.

At length, in answer to their prayers, God raised up for them another deliverer. This time it was a woman. Her name was Deborah. She was a prophetess as well as a judge, and it is said that she is the first instance on record of a female being raised to the government of a nation.

Having appointed a man named Barak as general of the army, Deborah directed him to march against the enemy of her country. And Barak, though he was a brave man,

said, "If thou wilt go with me, then I will go; but if thou wilt not go with me, then I will not go." He spoke thus because he knew that the Lord was with Deborah. So she went with him at the head of the army, and that day a great victory was gained for Israel.

Then Deborah and Barak joined in a song of triumph, in which they gave the glory of the great victory to the Lord, who was with them, and who fought for them.

HYMN.

Ye tribes of Israel, join
With heaven, and earth, and seas,
And offer notes divine
To your Creator's praise.
Ye holy throng, of angels bright,
In worlds of light begin the song.
Let all the nations fear
The God that rules above;
He brings his people near,
And makes them taste his love;
While earth and sky attempt his praise,
His saints shall raise his honors high.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXXVII.

1. What were visible for a long time after Joshua's death?
2. Who had directed the Israelites utterly to destroy the Canaanites?
3. Into what were the Israelites frequently led?
4. What overtook them in consequence of those sins?
5. Of what character were these punishments?
6. What did the people among whom they dwelt become?
7. What evidence is there that God did not utterly forsake them?
8. What did he do for them when they penitently sought his face?
9. What had Joshua omitted to do?
10. Who selected men to be the leaders of the Israelites?
11. What is said as to the way in which he made known his will in this matter?
12. By what name were the leaders of the people known?
13. Who was the first of the judges?
14. When was he called to this office?
15. What was the character of Othniel?
16. How did he succeed in war?
17. What was the name of the judge who succeeded Othniel?
18. What peculiarity distinguished Ehud?
19. To which of the tribes did he belong?
20. In what was his reign chiefly memorable?
21. How many of the Moabites were slain in that battle?

22. What followed that victory?
 23. Do you know the name of the judge who succeeded Othniel?
 24. What happened in his time?
 25. By whom were the Israelites defeated and oppressed?
 26. How long did that oppression last?
 27. Who was the next deliverer of Israel?
 28. What was Deborah?
 29. What is said of her?
 30. Whom did Deborah appoint as general of the army?
 31. What reply did Barak make to her command?
 32. What was the result of that battle?
 33. What did Deborah and Barak then do?
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LESSON THIRTY-EIGHTH.

GIDEON'S VICTORY.

FORTY years of peace succeeded the great victory gained by Deborah. Then came a more severe affliction than any the nation had yet endured. The people had done evil in the sight of the Lord, and he delivered them into the hands of the Midianites, who oppressed them so grievously that the Israelites fled, and made

for themselves dens and caves in the woods and in the mountains. The land was uncultivated, and a dreadful famine was the result.

In this time of deep distress they called upon the God of their fathers, and again he heard them, and sent them a deliverer whose name was Gideon, of the tribe of Manasseh. To him, as he was threshing out a little corn in a secret place, for fear of being discovered by the enemy, an angel from heaven appeared.

Several miracles were wrought to convince Gideon that God had indeed called him to this high office. The oppressed Israelites were also satisfied that Gideon was divinely selected as their leader, and twenty-two thousand men from the different tribes rallied under his banner.

But the Lord, in order to make it manifest that the victory was not to depend on man's powers, sent away all but a little band of three hundred. These three hundred Gideon divided into three companies. To each man he gave a trumpet and a pitcher, which concealed a lighted torch.

At midnight the little band drew near to the hosts of the enemy; and on a sudden, at a signal from Gideon, every man broke

his pitcher, which revealed the flashing of his torch. He then blew a loud blast upon his trumpet, and the enemy, startled from their sleep, were terror-struck, and as the entire encampment resounded with the echoing cry, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon," they rushed wildly upon one another; for the Lord, it is said, set every man's sword against his fellow even throughout all the host.

The destruction was terrible. One hundred and twenty thousand were killed, and so complete was the destruction of the Midianites that they were never able to lift up their heads again.

Then the people of Israel, in gratitude for what Gideon had done, proposed to make him their king, but he refused the honor. "I will not rule over you," said he, "neither shall my son rule over you; the Lord shall rule over you." This was noble conduct, and shows that he had no ambitious designs for himself, and that he gave all the glory of the great victory to the God of Israel.

Gideon was judge in Israel for forty years after this great battle, and during that time the people enjoyed peace and prosperity.

HYMN.

God is love ! his mercy brightens
 On the path in which we rove ;
 Bliss he wakes, and woe he lightens ;
 God is love.

Chance and change are busy ever,
 Man decays and ages move ;
 But his mercy waneth never ;
 God is love !

Ee'n the hour that darkest seemeth
 Will his changeless goodness move ;
 From the gloom his brightness streameth,
 God is love !

He with earthly cares entwineth
 Hope and comfort from above ;
 Everywhere his glory shineth ;
 God is love !



QUESTIONS ON LESSON XXXVIII.

1. What succeeded the victory gained by Deborah ?
2. What followed those forty years of peace ?
3. Into whose hands were the people delivered ?
4. Why were they delivered into the hands of the Midianites ?
5. What did the Israelites make for themselves ?
6. In what state was the land left ?
7. What was the result ?

8. What did the people do in this time of their deep distress?
9. What was the result of their prayers?
10. Who was the next deliverer of Israel?
11. Of what tribe was Gideon?
12. Where was Gideon when an angel appeared to him?
13. How was Gideon assured that God had called him?
14. How many Israelites rallied under the standard of Gideon?
15. How many of these did the Lord send to their homes?
16. Why was this done?
17. What did Gideon give to each man?
18. When did the little band draw near to the enemy?
19. What did they all do at a signal from Gideon?
20. What effect did this produce upon the Midianites?
21. What was the rallying cry of the three hundred?
22. What is it said the Lord did?
23. How many of the Midianites were slain?
24. What is said of the completeness of their overthrow?
25. What did the Israelites propose to do for Gideon?
26. Did Gideon accept this honor?
27. Do you remember his reply to their proposal?
28. How is this conduct on his part spoken of?
29. How long after this did Gideon continue as judge in Israel?
30. What was the condition of the people during that time?

LESSON THIRTY-NINTH.

THIRD QUARTERLY REVISION.

THE student will find the answers to the questions which form the subject of the present lesson without much difficulty. They will require, however, more time, inasmuch as we have gone over a larger portion of the Bible during the last three months than we did in the three preceding ; but patient perseverance will overcome all difficulties.

1. What direction did the Lord give to Moses at the Red Sea? (Exod. xiv, 15.)
2. Who went before the Israelites at this time? (Exod. xiv, 19.)
3. By what instrumentality did the Lord cause the sea to go back?
4. Who, in the opinion of the Egyptians, fought for the Israelites?
5. How many of the Egyptians, who entered the Red Sea after the Israelites escaped destruction?
6. Where in the Bible do we meet with the word *Palestina*?

7. Who are meant by the inhabitants of Palestina?
8. What was Miriam, the sister of Aaron?
9. What is the meaning of the word Marah?
10. At what place did the Israelites find twelve wells of water?
11. Where is the wilderness of Sin?
12. Do you know the literal meaning of the word manna?
13. What effect was produced on the manna by keeping it over night?
14. On what night in the week might it be kept without spoiling?
15. What was the color of the manna, and how did it taste?
16. During how many years did the Israelites eat manna?
17. About what did the people murmur at Rephidim?
18. Where was the rock that Moses smote under the direction of the Lord?
19. With what tribe did the Israelites have their first battle on their way to Canaan? (Exod. xvii, 8.)
20. Who led the Israelites in this battle?
21. Who held up the hands of Moses during the fight?

22. What did Moses call the altar which he built when the Amalekites were defeated?
23. Repeat the ten commandments.
24. Who saw the God of Israel? (Exod. xxiv, 10.)
25. How long was Moses in the mount?
26. Whom did the Lord say he had filled with the Spirit of God in wisdom and in understanding?
27. By whose finger were the ten commandments written on the two tables of stone? (Exod. xxxi, 18.)
28. What did the Lord proclaim when he passed before Moses on Mount Sinai?
29. How and for what were Nadab and Abihu put to death? (Lev. x.)
30. Give some account of the scape-goat as found in Lev. xvi.
31. During how many years did the Levites wait upon the service of the tabernacle? (Num. viii, 24, 25.)
32. How were the movements of the Israelites regulated in their journey toward the promised land? (Num. ix, 16, 23.)
33. Who was Hobab?
34. Can you give any account of Eldad and Medad?

35. Why did Miriam become leprous ?
36. Who brought an evil report about the promised land ?
37. What does the Lord declare in Numbers xiv, 21 ?
38. By what tribe of people were the Israelites defeated and discomfited even unto Hormah ?
39. What became of Korah and his associates ?
40. How did the Lord make known that he had chosen Aaron ?
41. When and where did Miriam and Aaron die ?
42. Who succeeded Aaron as high priest ?
43. Give a brief account of the brazen serpent as found in Numbers xxi.
44. What remarkable sentiment was uttered by Balaam in Numbers xxiii, 10 ?
45. By whom was it predicted that a Star should come out of Jacob and a scepter out of Israel ?
46. How many cities of refuge were set apart in the land of Canaan ?
47. For what purpose were the cities set apart ?
48. How old was Moses at his death, where did he die, and by whom was he buried ?

49. Give some account of the sin and punishment of Achan as found in Joshua vii.
50. Why was a special curse denounced against the Gibeonites?

HYMN.

Fair Canaan! the land of the blest!

A country exceedingly fair!

By all are its glories confessed,

But what must it be to be there!

We speak of its freedom from sin,

From sorrow, temptation and care,

From trials without and within;

But what must it be to be there!

We speak of its service of love,

The robes which the glorified wear,

The church of the first-born above;

But what must it be to be there!

My Saviour! 'mid sorrow and woe,

Still for heaven my spirit prepare,

And shortly I also shall know,

And feel what it is to be there.

LESSON FORTIETH.

JEPHTHAH AND HIS DAUGHTER.

A SON of Gideon, by name Abimelech, an ambitious and blood-thirsty man, resolved, on the death of his father, to be king of Israel. With this view he murdered all his brothers except the youngest, Jotham, who escaped by flight. Abimelech succeeded in inducing the men of Shechem to recognize him as their king; but in a little while they quarreled, and he was killed.

Tola was the next judge in Israel, and he was succeeded by a Gileadite named Jair. During their time the land was at peace, and continued to enjoy the blessings of Heaven.

As had been the case so frequently before, the people again fell into idolatry, and, as a punishment, were delivered into the hands of the Amorites, who ruled over them with despotic rigor for eighteen years.

Having at length put away their idols, and again earnestly sought the mercy of the Lord, he raised up for them another deliverer, a valiant soldier by the name of Jeph-

thah. He gained a great victory over the enemies of his country, and returned in triumph from the field of battle. As he drew near his home, he was met by his only daughter, who came forth with joy to meet him.

This was a sad sight for him. He had made a solemn vow that, if victorious in the fight, he would sacrifice the first object he met on his return. The father rent his clothes in agony; but the noble-hearted girl would not hear of such a thing as the violation of a solemn though rash promise, and her father did with her according to his vow.

After the death of Jephthah twenty-five years passed away, during which nothing of much moment occurred. Three successive judges ruled over the people, of whom we know nothing more than the names, which were Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon.

This brings us down to the days of the most remarkable of all the heroes of Jewish history. The children of Israel had again done evil in the sight of the Lord, and they had been delivered into the hands of the Philistines. An angel from heaven predicts the birth of a child who shall do wonders

for his people. In due time Samson is born, and God's blessing was upon him from his birth.

As he grew up to manhood his bodily strength wonderfully increased. He was probably the strongest man that ever lived. Among his feats of strength the first on record was the tearing in pieces a lion whom he met. He had no weapons; but as the savage beast came near, he caught it and tore it limb from limb as if it had been a young kid.

After this, with his single arm, he killed thirty of the Philistines, and then, with a most unlikely weapon, the jaw-bone of an ass, he slew a thousand more of them.

At length Samson's wife betrayed him into the hands of the Philistines, who put out his eyes, and bound him with fetters of brass, and put him in prison.

How long he remained a prisoner is not known; but at length, at a great meeting of the Philistines, who were assembled to worship an idol called Dagon, they set the strong man in their midst, bound in chains, to make sport for them. This he did for a while; but on a sudden he caught hold of two of the pillars by which the roof of the

house was sustained, and exerting his utmost strength, pulled down the building, burying himself and an immense multitude of the Philistines in its ruins.

HYMN.

Appear, great God, appear to me,
That, by myself abhorred,
Ashamed I may forever be
Before my glorious Lord.

That only sight can pride abase,
And force me to submit,
Which makes archangels veil their face,
And tremble at thy feet.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XL.

1. What was the name of that son of Gideon who is here mentioned?
2. What was his character?
3. What did he resolve to be?
4. What act of cruelty did he perform?
5. Do you remember the name of Abimelech's youngest brother?
6. Who received Abimelech as king?
7. What became of Abimelech?
8. Can you give the names of the two succeeding judges?
9. What was the state of the country in the times of Tola and Jair?

10. Why were the people delivered into the hands of the Amorites?
11. How long did this affliction last?
12. Who was Israel's next deliverer?
13. What was the character of Jephthah?
14. What is said of the victory gained by him?
15. Who met him on his return from the battle?
16. Why was Jephthah grieved to meet his daughter at this time?
17. How did Jephthah evince his grief?
18. How did his daughter behave on this occasion?
19. Did the father keep his vow?
20. Do you know the names of the three judges who succeeded Jephthah?
21. Into whose hands were the Israelites next delivered?
22. Who predicted the birth of Samson?
23. For what was Samson remarkable?
24. What feat of strength is first mentioned?
25. With what weapons did he destroy the lion?
26. State the next deeds that he performed?
27. Who betrayed Samson into the hands of the Philistines?
28. How did the Philistines treat him?
29. For what purpose had a large number of the Philistines assembled?
30. What was the name of the idol they worshiped?
31. State in your own language the result of that meeting.

LESSON FORTY-FIRST.

SAUL, THE FIRST KING OF ISRAEL.

ELI, who was the high priest, was the next judge of Israel. He had two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, who were very wicked; and Eli, their father, did not correct them as he ought to have done. On this account God was angry with Eli, because, said he, his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

Then the Philistines came against Israel with a great army, and that day was the most disastrous that had occurred in all the annals of the nation. The defeat of Israel was complete and overwhelming. Thirty thousand of their best soldiers fell on the field of battle, and the two sons of Eli were slain.

What was even more dreadful in the judgment of a true Israelite, was the fact that in this battle the ark of God, that symbol of the divine presence, fell into the hands of the enemy.

The news of this day's disasters were brought to Eli, who, on account of his age

and blindness, for he had lost his sight, did not go forth with the people to the war. When he was told that both his sons were slain, and that the ark of God was taken, the old man fell from his seat and broke his neck.

Just at that time a child was born to the new-made widow of Phinehas, and she, hearing at once of the death of her husband and her father-in-law, and that the ark had fallen into the hands of the enemy, gave her son the name Ichabod, exclaiming with her dying breath, for she also died, "The glory is departed from Israel, for the ark of God is taken."

As a successor to Eli, God had raised up Samuel, whom he called when quite a little boy, and who had assisted Eli in the priestly office. Samuel was a prophet as well as a judge in Israel, and a man who stood high in the favor of God. He called the people to repentance for their sins, and induced them to put away their idols.

In the mean time the Philistines who had taken the ark were sorely troubled on account of it. They had placed it in the house where they kept the image of their idol Dagon. On the morrow, behold, that

image had fallen flat upon its face before the ark. The same thing happened the next night, for, supposing the fall of Dagon might have been an accident, they had raised it up again. When they came to look on the morrow, not only had the image fallen, but its head and both hands were cut off. This terrified them, and a grievous disease which broke out among them increased their alarm, and in all haste they sent back the ark to the Israelites.

Samuel was a wise and good ruler; but when he grew old and infirm he appointed his two sons to act for him. They were cruel and oppressed the people. Then the elders came to Samuel, and demanded that he should anoint some one to be king over them. Samuel was displeased at the request, and told them how a king would oppress them. But they insisted, and the Lord told Samuel to do as they desired. Then the people were called together at Gilgal, and Saul, the son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, was made king.

HYMN.

Cut off by wrath divine,
The wicked soon shall cease;
While they who on the Lord recline
The promised land possess.

In a few days or years
The sinner's boast is o'er;
His pomp no more on earth appears,
His place is found no more.

But still the meek shall live,
With every blessing blest;
Fullness of Gospel-peace receive,
And everlasting rest.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XLI.

1. What office did Eli hold in addition to that of being judge in Israel?
2. What were the names of his two sons?
3. What was their character?
4. What did Eli neglect to do?
5. What was the consequence of this parental unfaithfulness?
6. Why was God angry with Eli?
7. Who then came against Israel?
8. What is said of that day?
9. How many of the Israelites fell on the battle-field?

10. What became of the two sons of Eli?
11. What more terrible disaster occurred?
12. Why did not Eli go forth to battle with his people?
13. What caused the death of Eli?
14. How did he die?
15. What name did the widow of Phinehas give to her child?
16. Do you know the meaning of Ichabod?
17. Did the mother of Ichabod long survive his birth?
18. Whom did God raise up as a successor to Eli?
19. When was Samuel called?
20. What had Samuel done from his boyhood?
21. What was the character of Samuel?
22. To what did he invite the Israelites?
23. On what account were the Philistines troubled?
24. Where had they placed the ark?
25. What happened to their idol?
26. Did this happen a second time?
27. With what additional circumstances?
28. What effect did this have on the Philistines?
29. What was then done with the ark?
30. What did Samuel do in his old age?
31. What was the character of his two sons?
32. What did the elders demand of Samuel?
33. Who told Samuel to accede to the request of the people?
34. Where were the people gathered together?
35. Who was made king?

LESSON FORTY-SECOND.

DAVID THE ROYAL PSALMIST.

SAUL was a brave soldier. He gained several victories over the enemies of his country, but he lacked other qualifications necessary for the kingly office. During the first few months of his reign his conduct was proper; but in a little while he more than justified the predictions of Samuel as to the manner in which his subjects would be treated. He became proud, overbearing, and tyrannical.

God had directed the Israelites utterly to destroy the Amalekites with all their possessions; but Saul, knowing this command, willfully disobeyed it, and spared Agag, the king of that people, with the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the lambs, and all that was good.

When the prophet Samuel charged him with this act of disobedience, he pretended that the cattle had been reserved in order to be sacrificed unto the Lord; to which Samuel replied in the memorable words ap-

plicable alike in all ages: "To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of lambs."

For these and other offenses, Samuel, under the direction of the Almighty, declared to Saul that the kingly office should not remain in his family, but that it should be given to another. After this Saul grew worse and worse, more violent in his temper and more flagrant in sin, and at one period of his life seems to have been insane.

At length, in a battle with the Philistines, on Mount Gilboa, Saul and his army were defeated. In this fight Saul's three sons were slain and he himself dreadfully wounded. Fearing that in this disabled state he should fall into the hands of the enemy, he put an end to his own life by falling on his sword.

David, the son of Jesse, had been selected by the Lord to succeed Saul. In early life he had been a shepherd, and at a time when the Philistines were at war with Israel, he had gained great renown by defeating and putting to death a giant by the name of Goliath. From that time a warm friendship began between the young shepherd and Jonathan the son of King Saul, which continued until the death of the latter.

David was a musician and a poet. A large portion of the book of Psalms was written by him. On the death of Saul and Jonathan he composed an ode which is highly praised for its pathos and tenderness. It may be found in the first chapter of the Second Book of Samuel.

The reign of David was marked by many victories in war, and by great national prosperity in peace. With the assistance of Hiram, king of Tyre, David built a splendid royal palace in the city of Jerusalem, which had been founded by himself some time previously, and was destined to be the capital of the nation. David intended also to build a temple for the worship of God, but that honor was reserved for his successor.

In the latter part of King David's life he fell into grievous sin, and God punished him severely. His son Absalom rebelled and led an army against his father. In the fight Absalom was killed, and David wept over him with loud and bitter lamentations. Other afflictions befell him, by which he seems to have been led to repentance deep and genuine, and at length, having reigned forty years, to have died in peace.

HYMN.

In the soft season of thy youth,
In nature's smiling bloom,
Ere age arrive, and trembling wait
Its summons to the tomb,
Remember thy Creator, God ;
For him thy powers employ ;
Make him thy fear, thy love, thy hope,
Thy confidence, thy joy.
He will defend and guide thy course
Through life's uncertain sea,
Till thou art landed on the shore
Of blessed eternity.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XLII.

1. What is said of the military character of Saul ?
2. In what was he lacking ?
3. What was his conduct during the first part of his reign ?
4. Whose predictions were afterward justified by his conduct ?
5. What did he then become ?
6. What directions had God given relative to the Amalekites ?
7. How did Saul treat this commandment of the Lord ?
8. What excuse did Saul make when charged with this act of disobedience ?

9. Can you repeat the reply made by Samuel?
10. What was to be his punishment for this and other acts of disobedience?
11. What effect had the announcement of this punishment?
12. What does he seem to have been at one period of his life?
13. Where was the battle fought in which the Israelites were defeated?
14. Who were slain in this battle?
15. State the circumstances of Saul's death?
16. Whom had the Lord selected to succeed Saul?
17. What occupation had David been brought up to?
18. How had the young David gained great renown?
19. Who was Jonathan?
20. Whose warm friend was he?
21. Where may we find the poetry of David?
22. What did David compose on the death of his friend?
23. Where may that ode be found?
24. By what was the reign of David marked?
25. With whose assistance did David build a palace?
26. In what city was this palace built?
27. Who laid the foundation of the city of Jerusalem?
28. What is said of David in the latter part of his life?
29. Who rebelled against David?
30. How did David receive the death of his wicked son?
31. How did David regain God's favor?
32. How long did he reign?

LESSON FORTY-THIRD.

SOLOMON.

OF the sons of King David the Lord had selected Solomon to be his successor. He was but twenty years of age when his father gave him his dying blessing, and said to him, "My son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and a willing mind. If thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off forever."

To this advice Solomon gave heed for a season, and all went well with him, and with the people over whom he reigned. He was famed for his justice and his wisdom. To this day he is recognized as the wisest of men. His government was mild and parental. Every man dwelt safely under his vine and under his fig tree, and the Israelites were respected by foreign nations, with whom Solomon introduced a profitable commerce.

The most memorable of all the works of Solomon was the building of the temple. This was a most magnificent edifice, and

was justly considered one of the wonders of the world. From distant parts of the earth were brought the materials for this great building, which it took seven years and a half to finish. What is specially remarkable, was the fact that every piece of timber and every stone was prepared and fitted for its place before it was brought to Jerusalem. There was no sound of hammer, ax, or any tool of iron heard in the house while it was building.

The dedication of this temple to the service of the God of Israel was an act of great solemnity, at the close of which fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the house. Then all the people fell down, and worshiped and praised the Lord, saying, "He is good, for his mercy endureth forever."

Solomon was an author. He wrote more than a thousand songs or psalms which have not been preserved, and treatises on plants and animals, which have also perished. All that we have of his writings are the book of Proverbs, the book of Ecclesiastes, and "Solomon's Song," with a few of the Psalms as found in the Bible.

After all this glory and honor, it is sad to relate the end of King Solomon's reign. He sinned grievously, became an idolater and an oppressor of the people, and a dark cloud rests upon his name and his memory.

Solomon reigned forty years, and was succeeded by his son Rehoboam, who, by rejecting the advice of the elders, and by acts of oppression, soon lost the greater part of his inheritance. Ten of the twelve tribes revolted, and set up an independent kingdom under Jeroboam, whom they made king. This was called the kingdom of Israel, to distinguish it from the other, which is known as the kingdom of Judah.

A civil war between these now separate nations seemed unavoidable; but the word of the Lord came to Rehoboam, forbidding him to engage in it. "Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren," saith the Lord, "for this thing is from me;" that is, by his permission, there were to be two kingdoms thereafter instead of one.

HYMN.

O Jesus, till my life shall end,
Be thou my ever-present friend;
Teach me thy statutes all divine,
And let thy will be always mine.

When each day's scenes and labors close,
And wearied nature seeks repose,
With pardoning mercy, richly blest,
Guard me, my Saviour, while I rest.

And at my life's last setting sun,
My conflicts o'er, my labors done,
Then grace and mercy richly shed,
To cheer and bless my dying bed.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XLIII.

1. Whom did the Lord choose as David's successor?
2. How old was Solomon at his father's death?
3. Can you repeat King David's dying exhortation to his son?
4. Did Solomon give heed to this advice?
5. For what is Solomon famed?
6. What is said of his government?
7. What is the language of Scripture descriptive of the peace of the people?
8. What is said of foreign nations?
9. What was the most memorable work of Solomon?
10. What is said of this temple?
11. How long was it in building?
12. Whence were the materials brought?
13. State a remarkable fact relative to this edifice?
14. What is said of the dedication of the temple?
15. How was God's presence manifested at the close of the dedication?
16. What effect did this produce upon the people?

17. What was their exclamation at this time?
18. Of what was King Solomon the author?
19. What has become of most of his works?
20. State some of his writings that remain to this day.
21. Where are these writings to be found?
22. What is said after all this honor and glory?
23. Why is the latter end of Solomon a source of sadness?
24. How long did he reign?
25. How old would that make him at his death?
26. By whom was Solomon succeeded?
27. What did he lose by his course of conduct?
28. What was that conduct?
29. How many tribes revolted?
30. Whom did they set up for their king?
31. How are the two kingdoms henceforth distinguished?
32. How was a civil war prevented?
33. Can you repeat the Lord's language on this occasion?



LESSON FORTY-FOURTH.

THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL.

ONLY two tribes, Judah and Benjamin, remained loyal to the son of Solomon. They formed what is known as the kingdom of Judah, while the remaining ten tribes, under Jeroboam, constituted the kingdom of Israel.

After the division, the latter, to whose history we confine ourselves for the present, selected as the capital of the nation the city of Shechem, which was enlarged and fortified, but never rose to the greatness and splendor of Jerusalem, which remained the great metropolis of Judah.

Jeroboam did evil in the sight of the Lord. He set up idols for the worship of the people, and they readily fell into this heaven-provoking sin. Worse than this, he assumed to himself the office of high priest, and took the lowest of the people, men of bad principles and without moral character, and made priests of them. For these things God was angry with him, and sent a prophet, who declared that his house should cease to reign in Israel, and that his family should soon become extinct.

After a reign of twenty-two years Jeroboam died, and was succeeded by his son Nadab, who reigned only two years. A conspiracy was formed against him, and he was slain by a man named Baasha, who seized upon the throne and was proclaimed king. This Baasha put to death all the children of Jeroboam, and thus was fulfilled the prediction of the prophet above noticed.

In a battle with the king of Judah, Baasha and his army were defeated, and after a reign of twenty-four years he died, and his house and family suffered the same fate as that which he had inflicted upon the children of Jeroboam. For the short space of one year his son Ela was nominally king. Then succeeded a violent contest between several rivals for the throne. Zimri dethroned Ela, but reigned only seven days, when he, in turn, was defeated, and Omri became king.

In the reign of Omri was founded the city of Samaria, which became the capital of the Israelitish kingdom and the residence of their kings. The city took its name from Shemer, the owner of the land upon which it was built. It was situated in the midst of the tribe of Ephraim, not far from the coasts of the Mediterranean sea.

Omri was the worst king that had yet reigned in Israel. He led the people into idolatry, and provoked the Lord. His reign lasted about seven years, and at his death he was buried in the newly founded city of Samaria.

HYMN.

Praise to thee, thou great Creator!
Praise to thee from every tongue;
Join, my soul, with every creature,
Join the universal song.

Father, Source of all compassion,
Pure, unbounded grace is thine;
Hail the God of our salvation!
Praise him for his love divine.

For ten thousand blessings given,
For the hope of future joy,
Sound his praise through earth and heaven,
Sound Jehovah's praise on high.

Joyfully on earth adore him,
Till in heaven our song we raise;
There, enraptured, fall before him,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XLIV.

1. Which of the twelve tribes remained faithful to Rehoboam?
2. What did these two tribes constitute?
3. Of what tribes were the kingdom of Israel composed?
4. To which of these kingdoms do we first direct our attention?
5. What city was first selected as the capital of Israel?

6. Of what was Jerusalem the metropolis?
7. What was Jeroboam's character?
8. Into what sin did he lead the people?
9. What office did he assume for himself?
10. What kind of men did he select for the priestly office?
11. How did the Lord punish him for these things?
12. Do you remember how long Jeroboam reigned?
13. By whom was he succeeded?
14. What became of Nadab?
15. By whom was fulfilled the prediction relative to the family of Jeroboam?
16. With whom did Baasha go to war?
17. What was the result of the battle?
18. How long did Baasha reign?
19. What is said of his family?
20. What was the name of Baasha's son?
21. How long did he nominally possess the throne?
22. What happened on the death of Ela?
23. What great event took place in the reign of Omri?
24. What did Samaria become?
25. Whence did the city obtain the name of Samaria?
26. In what tribe was Samaria?
27. Near what sea?
28. What was the character of Omri?
29. Into what sin did he lead the people?
30. How long did he reign?

LESSON FORTY-FIFTH.

ELIJAH AND ELISHA.

IN the days of Ahab, the next king of Israel, appears one of the most wonderful men of whom we have any account in history. His name was Elijah. He was a prophet sent by the Almighty to warn the people of the judgments that would fall upon them, unless they repented and renounced their sinful practices.

Elijah wrought many miracles. In the time of a great famine, which lasted three years, he increased a little oil and flour so that cakes were made of it every day without diminishing its quantity till the famine was over. He raised a widow's dead child to life. He called down fire from heaven, and caused to be put to death four hundred and fifty of the wicked priests of Baal, who had encouraged the people in their idolatrous worship.

But King Ahab and his wife, whose name was Jezebel, continued in their wicked career. Among other crimes they caused a man named Naboth to be stoned to death

because he had a vineyard which the king coveted. This cruel act was denounced by Elijah, who terrified him and his wife by the assurance that they and their whole family should perish by a violent death.

In a battle with the king of Syria, Ahab was killed, and Jezebel some time after was thrown from a window and crushed to death, and, as the prophet had predicted, dogs licked her blood and ate her flesh.

When Elijah had finished the work which God gave him, he was taken up to heaven bodily in a chariot of fire.

Another prophet, by name Elisha, witnessed his ascension and caught his mantle. He also warned the people against their sinful practices, predicted the events of futurity, and performed many miracles. He so increased a poor widow's oil that a small cruse was made to fill many large vessels. He healed Naaman, a Syrian general, of a loathsome disease called the leprosy; and at a time when a famine prevailed of such severity that the people turned cannibals and fed upon one another, he predicted that on the next day there would be an abundance of food. And so it came to pass, for the Syrians, who at that time besieged Sa-

maria, were terrified by supernatural noises in the night, and fled, leaving behind an immense quantity of wealth and provisions of all sorts.

Ahab reigned twenty-two years. He was succeeded by his son Ahaziah, who, dying in consequence of an accident, was followed by his brother Joram. When Joram had reigned twelve years, one of his generals, Jehu by name, made war against him, put him to death, and with him caused all the other sons of Ahab to be slain.

Then Jehu seized upon the throne and reigned twenty-eight years. He was a stern and cruel man. He invited all the priests of Baal, the false god which many of the people worshiped, to a festival at Samaria. When they were all assembled in the temple of the idol, he sent in among them armed men, who put them all to death, and threw down and destroyed the idolatrous temple.

HYMN.

There is a land above,
All beautiful and bright,
And those who love and seek the Lord
Rise to that world of light.

There sin is known no more,
Nor tears, nor want, nor care;
There good and happy beings dwell,
And all are holy there.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XLV.

1. Who succeeded Omri as king of Israel?
2. What great prophet lived in his reign?
3. How did Elijah prove that God had sent him?
4. What miracle did he perform in the time of the famine?
5. What favor did he perform for a poor widow?
6. What other great miracle is mentioned?
7. Whom did King Ahab marry?
8. What effect did Elijah's preaching produce upon them?
9. Of what act of cruelty were they guilty?
10. How did Elijah terrify the king and queen?
11. Where was Ahab killed?
12. What was the end of Jezebel?
13. State the circumstances of Elijah's translation.
14. Who witnessed the ascension of Elijah?
15. Of what did Elisha warn the people?
16. What else did he do?
17. Can you state some of the miracles he performed?
18. What was the name of the Syrian who was healed of the leprosy?
19. What is said as to the severity of the famine at that time?
20. How did Elisha's prediction come to pass?

21. How was the Syrian army terrified?
 22. What did they leave behind when they fled?
 23. How long did Ahab reign?
 24. Who succeeded Ahab?
 25. What caused the death of Ahaziah?
 26. Who succeeded him?
 27. Whose son was Joram?
 28. Can you state how Joram came to his end?
 29. Who predicted the bloody end of Ahab's family?
 30. What was the character of Jehu?
 31. How long did he reign?
 32. What instance of his vengeance is related?
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LESSON FORTY-SIXTH.

THE CONQUEST OF SAMARIA.

AFTER the death of Jehu several kings successively reigned over the kingdom of Israel, of whom but little is known. The longest reign on record was that of Jeroboam the Second. He was king forty-one years.

In his time lived the prophet Jonah, whom God sent to warn the Ninevites of their sins, and to call them to repentance. Jonah at first refused to do as God directed, and went on board a ship bound to Tarshish. But a furious storm arose and he

was thrown overboard by the sailors. A large fish swallowed him, in whose belly he remained three days. At the end of that time he was cast upon the land and performed the errand upon which God sent him. The people of Nineveh listened to his voice, humbled themselves, repented of their sins, and God heard them and had mercy upon them.

After the death of Jeroboam the Second occurs a period of eleven years, in which there was no king in Israel. The country was in a state of anarchy. Civil commotions were frequent, and, as is always the case in similar circumstances, the people were discontented and unhappy.

At length the scepter was seized by Zechariah, a son of Jeroboam, who held it about six months. He was then put to death by Shallum, who retained the kingly office but one short month, when a man named Menahem put him to death and usurped the throne.

These were dreadful times in Israel, the darkest days in her history, which now draws rapidly to its end. Pul, the king of the Assyrians, made war against them, and Menahem consented to pay him an annual

tribute, which he wrung from the people by severe taxation.

The independence of Israel as a nation was now really at an end, but for some years longer one feeble ruler after another sat upon her throne until Hoshea, the last of her kings was taken prisoner by the Assyrians and sent in chains to Nineveh. This was at the close of a long siege, which resulted in the conquest of Samaria. All the principal families of Israel were also made prisoners and sent to Media.

This memorable event, the final termination of the kingdom of Israel, and the dispersion and captivity of her people, took place in the year from the creation of the world 3283, being in the year before the coming of Christ 721.

For about forty years the lower classes of the people were allowed to remain in their native land. They were then removed by their conquerors and scattered through the countries of Media and Assyria, from which time history loses sight of the ten tribes as a distinct people. Their land was then occupied by a motley mixture of colonies from the East, who at length became known as the people of whom we hear so much in the

New Testament under the name of Samaritans.

HYMN.

The Lord is great! ye hosts of heaven, adore him;
And ye who tread this earthly ball,
In holy songs rejoice aloud before him,
And shout his praise who made you all.

The Lord is great! his majesty how glorious!
Resound his praise from shore to shore!
O'er sin, and death, and hell now made victorious,
He rules and reigns for evermore.

The Lord is great! his mercy, how abounding!
Ye angels, strike your golden chords;
O praise our God, with voice and harp resounding,
The King of kings, and Lord of lords!

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XLVI.

1. What do we know of the kings who succeeded Jehu?
2. Whose reign was the longest of which we have any account?
3. How long did Jeroboam the Second reign?
4. What prophet lived in his time?
5. To whom was Jonah sent, and for what purpose?
6. Relate the circumstances of Jonah's mission.
7. What effect was produced by his preaching?
8. What followed on the death of Jeroboam?
9. What was the state of the country during that time?

10. What was the condition of the people?
11. Who then seized upon the throne?
12. How long did Zechariah reign?
13. What was the end of Zechariah?
14. What was the duration of Shallum's reign?
15. By what means did Menahem obtain the throne?
16. What is now said of the history of Israel?
17. Who was Pul?
18. Against whom did Pul make war?
19. What did King Menahem consent to do?
20. By what means did he procure money for this object?
21. What was now rapidly drawing to an end?
22. Who was the last king of Israel?
23. What became of him?
24. What became of Samaria?
25. What was done with the principal families of Israel?
26. In what year from the creation did the kingdom of Israel come to an end?
27. How long was this before the birth of Christ?
28. What became of the lower orders of the people?
29. By whom was their land repeopled?
30. By what name were these people afterward known?

LESSON FORTY-SEVENTH.

THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH.

WE now turn back and take up the history of Judah, over which, you will remember, Rehoboam reigned, having come to the throne on the death of Solomon his father.

In his reign the Egyptians invaded the kingdom with an immense army, and, among other acts of pillage, robbed the temple and the royal palace. This was a severe blow to the pride of the Jewish people. The Egyptian king, whose name was Shishak, took away all the treasures of the house of the Lord, and all the treasures of the palace, so that Rehoboam was obliged to make ornaments and vessels of brass as a substitute for those of gold of which they had been despoiled.

But what was worse than this, the king of Egypt compelled them to pay tribute, and thus acknowledge a state of dependence and inferiority.

After a reign of seventeen years Rehoboam died, and was succeeded by his son

Abijah, whose ways were not right in the sight of the Lord. He was successful in a battle against the forces of King Jeroboam, but his reign was short, lasting only three years.

The good king Asa followed. Of him it is said that his heart was perfect with the Lord all his days. He destroyed the idols that were set up in various places, and recalled the people to the worship of the true God.

A signal answer to his prayer was given when there came against Judah an army of Ethiopians amounting to a million of men. Asa had scarcely more than half as many, and the prospect was gloomy; but he cried unto the Lord in prayer. "O Lord our God," said he, "we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this host. O Lord, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee." The result was the complete overthrow of the enemy, and a large amount of spoil for the conquerors.

During the long reign of Asa, which lasted forty-one years, the country was generally prosperous, as it was also in the days of his son Jehoshaphat, who succeeded him. Jehoshaphat was faithful to his God, and God was with him. He was one of the

best of the kings of Judah, and during the twenty-five years of his reign the kingdom prospered greatly.

The son of Jehoshaphat, whose name was Jehoram, married Athaliah, the daughter of King Ahab and the wicked Jezebel, of whom we had an account in a former lesson.

After the death of Jehoram, who reigned eight years, and that of his son Ahaziah, who was killed in battle, Athaliah usurped the throne, and for the first and only time in the history of Judah a queen held the supreme power. She was a wicked woman, cruel, and blood-thirsty. She killed all the royal children except one little boy, by name Joash, who was hidden in the temple by the wife of the high priest.

Athaliah maintained her oppressive government for six years, in which time she established everywhere in her dominions the idolatrous worship of Baal. At the end of that time her own people rebelled against her, put her to death, and proclaimed Joash, then only seven years of age, as their lawful king.

HYMN.

No change of time shall ever shock
My trust, O Lord, in thee;
For thou hast always been my Rock,
A sure defense to me.

Thou my deliverer art, O God;
My trust is in thy power:
Thou art my shield from foes abroad,
My safeguard and my tower.

To thee will I address my prayer,
To whom all praise I owe;
So shall I, by thy watchful care,
Be saved from every foe.



QUESTIONS ON LESSON XLVII.

1. What history do we now propose to consider?
2. Who succeeded Solomon as king of Judah?
3. By whom was the land invaded in the time of Rehoboam?
4. What special act of spoliation did the Egyptians commit?
5. Do you remember the name of that Egyptian king?
6. To what extent did this plunder extend?
7. With what did Rehoboam replace these golden vessels?

8. To what other act of dependence were they obliged to submit?
9. How many years did Rehoboam reign?
10. Who followed him as king of Judah?
11. What was the character of Abijah?
12. How long did he reign?
13. Relate what is said of king Asa.
14. What was the occasion of Asa's prayer here mentioned?
15. Can you repeat the language of his prayer?
16. What was the result?
17. How long did Asa reign?
18. What was the name of Asa's son and successor?
19. What was the character of Jehoshaphat?
20. Whom did Jehoram, son of Jehoshaphat, marry?
21. Over what kingdom did Ahab and Jezebel reign?
22. How long did Jehoram reign?
23. What did Athaliah usurp?
24. What was her character?
25. What instance of her cruelty is related?
26. What was the name of the child who escaped?
27. By what means did Joash escape?
28. How long did queen Athaliah reign?
29. What was one of the consequences of her reign?
30. How did she die?
31. Who was then proclaimed king?

LESSON FORTY-EIGHTH.

PROPHETS AND KINGS OF JUDAH.

UNTIL Joash became of age Jehoiada the high priest acted as king, and by him the young monarch was instructed in the true religion. In the early part of his reign, and while his instructor was living, Joash served the true God, and promoted his worship. After that, following the advice of bad men, he fell into idolatry, and incurred the anger of the Lord. His kingdom was invaded by the Syrians, who plundered Jerusalem, and slew many of the people. In the fortieth year of his reign he was murdered by two of his own officers.

Joash was succeeded by his son Amaziah, who also encouraged the worship of idols, and who was slain by his own subjects after a reign of twenty-nine years.

Then began the long and prosperous reign of Uzziah. He was but five years old when he was proclaimed king, the high priest, whose name was Zechariah, acting for him till he became of age. During the fifty-two years of his reign the land had great prosperity, but

the king committed one grievous sin, for which he was severely punished. He took upon himself the office of high priest, and as in that capacity he entered into the holy place of the temple, he was struck with that loathsome disease the leprosy, by which he was compelled to live apart by himself for the rest of his life.

In the latter days of Uzziah, and continuing through the reign of several succeeding kings, the prophet Isaiah uttered his predictions. He is known as the evangelical prophet, from the great clearness with which he spake of the coming of Jesus Christ into our world. The minor prophets, as they are called, Hosea, Joel, Amos, and Micah, lived about the same time.

Another equally good and wise king succeeded Uzziah. His name was Jotham. He reigned sixteen years, and was followed by his son Ahaz, who has the bad eminence of being the worst king that ever sat upon the throne of Judah. He utterly forsook the worship of Jehovah, and did public homage to the idolatrous gods of the Syrians. He robbed the treasury of the Lord to pay tribute to foreigners. He defaced the sacred vessels of the temple and mutilat-

ed the temple itself. He offered incense in the valley of Hinnom, and made his sons pass through the fire.

The Lord, it is said, brought Judah low on account of this wicked king, and when he died, after a reign of sixteen years, the people refused to give him a burial-place among the kings who preceded him.

If another such idolater had immediately succeeded, we cannot but think that the utter destruction of the kingdom would have followed. Happily the son and successor of Ahaz, Hezekiah, was of a very different character. He was a faithful servant of the Lord, and devoted all his energies to bring the people back from idolatry. He restored and beautified the temple, and encouraged the priests and Levites in their religious duties. In a time of great peril, while the king of Assyria was besieging Jerusalem with a very large army, Hezekiah, in conjunction with the prophet Isaiah, called upon God for assistance. This prayer was heard, and a pestilential wind, which swept over the enemy at night, smote a hundred and eighty-five thousand of them, and in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

HYMN.

How long sometimes a day appears!
 And weeks, how long are they!
 Months move along as if the years
 Would never pass away.

But months and years are passing by
 And soon will all be gone;
 For day by day, as minutes fly,
 Eternity comes on.

Days, months, and years must have an end,
 Eternity has none;
 'Twill always have as long to spend
 As when it first begun.

Great God, a little child can't tell
 How such a thing can be:
 I only pray that I may dwell
 That long, long time with thee.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XLVIII.

1. Who conducted the government during the childhood of Joash?
2. State the difference between the earlier and the latter part of the reign of Joash.
3. By whom was the kingdom invaded?
4. How many years did Joash reign?
5. What caused his death?
6. What is said of Amaziah the son of Joash?

7. By whom was Amaziah succeeded?
8. How old was he when he was proclaimed king?
9. Who was high priest at this time?
10. How long did Uzziah reign?
11. What grievous sin did he commit?
12. How was he punished?
13. In whose reign did Isaiah commence his predictions?
14. Why is Isaiah called the evangelical prophet?
15. Which four of the minor prophets lived at the same time?
16. Who succeeded Uzziah?
17. What was his character?
18. How did Jotham reign?
19. Who has the name of being the worst of the kings of Judah?
20. State some of the sins of which Ahaz was guilty.
21. What did the Lord do to Judah on account of Ahaz?
22. What did the people refuse to him at his death?
23. How long did Ahaz reign?
24. What was the character of Hezekiah?
25. To what did he devote his energies?
26. Whose son was Hezekiah?
27. Who besieged Jerusalem in the days of Hezekiah?
28. Who joined with the king in praying to the Lord for assistance?
29. What was the result of that prayer?
30. How many Assyrians were destroyed?

LESSON FORTY-NINTH.

THE DOWNFALL OF JUDAH.

AFTER a reign of twenty-nine years Hezekiah died, and was succeeded by Manasseh.

In the first part of his reign Manasseh was very wicked. He set up an idol in the sacred temple, and is supposed to have sacrificed human victims. His conduct was highly offensive to the Lord, and the king of Assyria defeated him in battle, and sent him and many of his people prisoners to Babylon.

There, in a dungeon, this idolatrous tyrant humbled himself before the Lord and repented, and God had mercy upon him, and put it into the heart of his conqueror to send him back to Judea. On his return he appears to have led a new life, but his subjects had little faith in him, for when he died, after a reign of fifty-five years, they refused him the honor of a burial in the royal cemetery. He was succeeded by his son Amon, who was assassinated after a short and wicked reign of only two years.

The good Josiah followed. His name is

deservedly held dear as one of the best of monarchs and one of the most virtuous of men. He totally extirpated all idolatrous practices, and with his people renewed the solemn covenant with the God of Israel. In his days appeared Jeremiah, known as the weeping prophet, from the melancholy strain of his predictions, and the tenderness of his entreaties. The two minor prophets, Habbakuk and Zephaniah, also lived about this time.

On the death of Josiah, after a reign of thirty-one years, his son Jehoahaz became king. His reign was very short, only about two months, when the king of Egypt, at the head of a large army, dethroned him, and gave the crown to his brother Jehoiakim, who was compelled to pay an annual tribute to the conqueror. In the days of Jehoiakim the prophet Daniel was carried captive to Babylon, where he attained a great reputation, and compelled even idolaters to do homage to the true God. An interesting account of a portion of his life may be found in the Bible.

And now the end of the kingdom of Judah is at hand. As the Lord had declared by his prophets, the nation was to be

destroyed for the wickedness of the people. The cup of their iniquities was full, and the patience and long-suffering of God were exhausted.

During the reign of Zedekiah, the last king of Judah, forty thousand of the principal inhabitants of Jerusalem were taken captive, among them the prophet Ezekiel, and were settled on the banks of the river Chebar in Mesopotamia.

Afterward Jerusalem was besieged by the Babylonians for the long space of eighteen months, and at length the holy city, as it was called, was utterly destroyed, and all the surviving inhabitants, together with those of the surrounding country, were sent captives to Babylon. The king, with his two sons, tried to escape by flight, but was overtaken. His eyes were put out, and he was forced to share with his people the bitterness of captivity in a foreign land.

This deplorable event occurred in the year 586 B. C., being about one hundred and thirty-five years after the conquest of Samaria and the destruction of the kingdom of Israel.

HYMN.

Heirs of unending life,
While yet we sojourn here,
For our salvation let us work
With trembling and with fear.
God will support our hearts
With might before unknown;
The work to be performed is ours,
The strength is all his own.
'Tis he that works to will,
'Tis he that works to do;
His is the power by which we act,
His be the glory too.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON XLIX.

1. How long did Hezekiah reign?
2. By whom was he succeeded?
3. What was the moral character of Manasseh?
4. Can you relate some of the crimes charged upon him?
5. What was done to Manasseh by the king of Babylon?
6. How did Manasseh conduct himself in the dungeon?
7. In what did his penitence and prayers result?
8. How long did he reign?
9. What is said of his burial?
10. By what means did his successor, Amon, lose his life?

11. What was the character of the next king, Josiah?
12. Can you state some of the good deeds of Josiah?
13. Which of the prophets flourished about this time?
14. What was Jeremiah called, and why?
15. How long did Josiah reign?
16. Who dethroned Jehoahaz?
17. What was Jehoiakim compelled to do?
18. Relate what you know of the prophet Daniel.
19. What is now said of the kingdom of Judah?
20. Why was the nation to be destroyed?
21. Who was the last king of Judah?
22. How many of the Jews were taken captive and carried into Mesopotamia?
23. What great prophet was among them?
24. How long did the Babylonians besiege Jerusalem?
25. By what name is Jerusalem frequently called?
26. What was the result of that long siege?
27. What is said of the king and his two sons?
28. What did the conquerors do to the king?
29. When did the destruction of Jerusalem take place?
30. How long was this after the capture of Samaria?

LESSON FIFTIETH.

CAPTIVITY IN BABYLON.

IN Babylon the Jews do not appear to have been treated as slaves, but they occupied a portion of the country by themselves. They were a conquered and despised people,

and sad were their lamentations over the glory that had departed. They remembered, however, the prediction that their captivity should last but seventy years; and there were among them prophets who tried to encourage them, even then, to put their trust in the God of their fathers.

A signal interposition in their favor is related in the Book of Esther, which refers to this period. Haman, the prime minister of the Persian king, had taken offense at the Jews, and had procured a decree for their total destruction. Through the agency of Esther the decree was turned against those who caused it to be enacted, and made to result in favor of the captive Jews.

King Cyrus, who was a wise and humane monarch, had issued a decree by which the captives were permitted to return to their native land and to rebuild their city. They were aided in doing this by grants of money from the royal treasury; and amid shouts of joy and tears of grief, before the seventieth year of their captivity was ended, they laid the foundation for the rebuilding of the temple. The prophet Haggai encouraged them in the work by the prediction that the glory of the latter house should be greater.

than that of the former. That prediction was fulfilled when the Lord Jesus, the King of glory, made his personal appearance within the walls of this sacred edifice.

After this, in the days of Nehemiah, the walls of the city of Jerusalem were repaired, and a palace was built for himself as governor under the Persian king. Many of the captives returned to their native land, and the prospect seemed fair for the restoration of the kingdom of Judah to something like its former greatness and glory.

But these prospects were soon blasted. Antiochus, a king of Syria, surnamed Epiphanes, or the Illustrious, made war upon Judah with an immense army. He captured the city of Jerusalem and slew forty thousand of its inhabitants, and sold as many more for slaves. The cruelties perpetrated by this blood-thirsty tyrant are almost incredible. His avowed purpose was to exterminate the entire nation. In his madness he not only plundered the temple of all its treasures, but caused an unclean animal, a sow, to be sacrificed on the sacred altar, the blood of which was sprinkled all over the sacred edifice.

While the Jews were horror-struck at

this wanton desecration of their most holy things, mobs of brutal soldiers were let loose upon them, and thousands were butchered in the streets and public places. Jerusalem was given up to plunder and devastation; hundreds of houses were destroyed by fire, and the walls of the city were leveled with the ground.

In addition to all these horrors, the afflicted people who yet survived were compelled to unite with their persecutors in the worship of an idol which they had caused to be set up in the temple of the Most High.

HYMN.

God is our refuge, ever near,
Our help in tribulation,
Therefore his people shall not fear
Amid a wrecked creation.
Though mountains from their base be hurled,
And ocean shakes the solid world,
The Lord is our salvation.

The stream that flows from Zion's hill
Shall yet, serenely gliding,
With joy the holy city fill,
His presence there abiding;
The Lord her glory and defense,
Will guard his chosen residence,
His timely aid providing.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON L.

1. What is said of the treatment of the Jews in Babylon?
2. What did they grieve over?
3. How long did the prophets say this captivity would last?
4. What men among them strove to give them encouragement?
5. Where is a signal interposition in their favor related?
6. Can you state the substance of that narrative?
7. What was the character of King Cyrus?
8. What was the purport of the decree issued by him?
9. How were they aided in this undertaking?
10. When did they commence this great work?
11. What was the prediction of the prophet Haggai?
12. When was that prediction fulfilled?
13. Who was governor of Judea at this time?
14. What were built under the direction of Nehemiah?
15. What was now the prospect?
16. By whom were these prospects blasted?
17. Of what country was Antiochus king?
18. What is the meaning of his surname Epiphanes?
19. What was the result of his attack upon Jerusalem?
20. How many of the citizens were slain?
21. How many were sold for slaves?
22. What is said of the cruelties perpetrated by Antiochus?
23. What was his avowed purpose?
24. In what way did he defile the temple?

25. What effect had this act of desecration upon the people?
 26. What happened then?
 27. To what was Jerusalem given up?
 28. By what means were many houses destroyed?
 29. What was done to the walls of the city?
 30. What other affliction befell the people of Judah?
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LESSON FIFTY-FIRST.

SHILOH, OR THE PROMISED SAVIOUR.

Now it seemed as if the scepter was about forever to depart from Judah; but the prophecy of Jacob declared that it should not thus depart until the coming of Shiloh, or the promised Saviour. Hence, in the darkest hour of the history of Judah, when all hope seems to have forsaken the afflicted people, a deliverer appears in the person of Mattathias, the founder of what is known as the Asmonean dynasty.

Mattathias and his sons headed a revolt against their Syrian oppressors, and gained several victories over them. They recaptured the city of Jerusalem, and cleansed and purified the temple. The public worship of the true God was restored, and the

feast of the dedication was celebrated. It is said that to the present day the Jewish people, in all parts of the world, observe this annual feast in memory of the victories by which their name and nation were then saved from utter destruction.

But the country was not allowed to be at peace. One enemy after another appeared against them, and what was worse, they had continual strifes and contentions among themselves.

A Syrian king, by name Demetrius, overpowered their little army with an immense force; and Judas, one of the sons of Mattathias, a brave and gallant general, was slain on the field of battle.

Judas was succeeded by his brother Simon, under whose government the country had a season of peace. He also gained a victory over the Syrians, but he was soon after assassinated by his son-in-law Ptolemy.

And now we hear, for the first time, of the two sects so frequently mentioned in the New Testament, the Pharisees and the Sadducees. As if the country had not foreign foes in sufficient force to contend against, these powerful factions waged against each other a bloody war. In their folly, after

much blood had been shed on both sides, they appeal to Pompey the Great, then emperor of Rome, to act as umpire between them. Pompey decided in favor of the Pharisees, and at the same time advancing into Judea with an army, he captured Jerusalem, and sent the leader of the Sadducees, whose name was Aristobulus, and his family as prisoners to Rome.

Antigonus, the son of Aristobulus, was not disposed to submit to the decision of Pompey. When his father was sent to Rome, he found refuge among the Parthians, and from the Syrians and other nations he gathered a large army, with which he invaded Jerusalem. He was successful, and held possession of the government for a season.

But now Herod, afterward surnamed the Great, was authorized by Augustus Cesar, the emperor of Rome, which claimed to be mistress of the world, to take possession of Judea with the title of king. He did so with a large army, and the Asmonean dynasty, which had subsisted for one hundred and twenty-four years, was at an end.

So also had the scepter departed from Judah, and in the days of Herod was born

that Saviour of whom the prophets had sung in strains of exulting gladness, and in whom were fulfilled all the types and figures of the old dispensation.

HYMN.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her king;

Let every heart prepare him room,

And all creation sing.

No more let sin and sorrow grow,

Nor thorns infest the ground;

He comes to make his blessings flow

Wherever sin is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove

The glories of his righteousness,

The wonders of his love.



QUESTIONS ON LESSON LI.

1. What is the prophecy of Jacob here referred to?
2. Whom do we understand by Shiloh?
3. What is the name of the deliverer who now appears?
4. Of what dynasty is he said to be the founder?
5. What is said of Mattathias and his sons?
6. What did they do to the temple?
7. What feast was then celebrated?

8. What is said of the Jewish people of the present day?
9. What was the state of the country at this time?
10. What was worse than the invasion of foreigners?
11. Who was Demetrius?
12. Who was Judas, and what was his reputation?
13. How did Judas die?
14. By whom was Judas succeeded?
15. State some facts relative to the reign of Judas.
16. By whom was Judas assassinated?
17. What two rival sects are now introduced to our notice?
18. In what did these factions engage?
19. To whom did they make their appeal?
20. What was Pompey?
21. In whose favor did Pompey decide?
22. What did Pompey besides deciding the question submitted to him?
23. Who was Aristobulus?
24. Where did the son of Aristobulus find refuge?
25. Whence did he obtain an army?
26. How did the invasion of Jerusalem result?
27. Who was Augustus Cesar?
28. What did Rome claim to be at this time?
29. Whom did Augustus make king of Judea?
30. How long lasted the Asmonean dynasty?
31. What great event marked the occupancy of the throne by Herod?
32. Who was born in the days of Herod?

LESSON FIFTY-SECOND.

FOURTH QUARTERLY REVISION.

WITH this lesson ends the year, and we finish the Bible History as found in the Old Testament. Of course there is a great deal in the Bible which we have passed over without notice. This must be left to the student for future investigation. The questions now to be answered will require study; and the student will be rewarded in proportion to the patience and diligence with which the pages of the Bible are examined.

1. Who led the Israelites into the promised land?
2. How were the Israelites governed after the death of Joshua?
3. Who was Othniel, and for what is he celebrated? (Judg. iii, 9-11.)
4. By what king of Moab were the Israelites held in subjection eighteen years?
5. Who was Jael, and for what action notorious?
6. For what did the angel of the Lord pronounce a curse against the inhabitants of Meroz?

7. Mention some of the remarkable deeds of Gideon?
8. Relate Jotham's parable to the men of Shechem?
9. Give an account of Ruth as found in the book which bears her name?
10. How long did the ark of God remain in the land of the Philistines? (1 Sam. vi, 1.)
11. How did the Philistines send it back?
12. What were the names of the two sons of Samuel?
13. Whose son was Saul, the first king of Israel?
14. To which of the tribes of Israel did Saul belong?
15. For what was King Saul remarkable? (1 Sam. x, 23.)
16. What was the name of Saul's son, and for what was he remarkable?
17. Give some account of the fight between David and Goliath.
18. To whom was David married? (1 Sam. xix, 27, and xxv, 42.)
19. Who was Abiathar?
20. What was the result of the battle between Saul and the Philistines in Gilboa?

21. How long did David reign over all Israel and Judah, and how long over Judah alone? (2 Sam. v, 5.)
22. Who was Mephibosheth?
23. What was the character and what the fate of Absalom the son of David?
24. By whom was David reprov'd for his immoderate sorrow at the death of Absalom?
25. Who was Hiram, and in what way did he aid Solomon? (1 Kings v.)
26. What queen visited King Solomon, and was surprised at his wealth and magnificence?
27. How was Elijah, the Tishbite, supplied with food in time of the famine? (1 Kings xvii, 6, 12.)
28. By what means did Elijah restore to life the son of the widow of Zarephath?
29. What was the result of the controversy between Elijah and the prophets of Baal?
30. By what means did Elisha restore to life the son of the Shunamite? (2 Kings iv, 33, 34.)
31. Relate what you know about Naaman, the Syrian.

32. Which of the prophets caused iron to swim?
33. What miracle occurred at the sepulcher of Elisha?
34. Which of the prophets sent a comforting message to King Hezekiah? (2 Kings xix, 19.)
35. How many years were added to the life of Hezekiah in answer to his prayer?
36. What was the name and character of the son and successor of Hezekiah?
37. At what age did Josiah begin to reign, and what was his character?
38. Why was not David permitted to build a temple for the Lord?
39. Who was Sennacherib, and what do you know about him? (2 Chron. xxxii.)
40. What caused the death of King Josiah?
41. Who stirred up the heart of Cyrus, king of Persia, to make a proclamation in favor of the Jews? (Ezra i.)
42. Who was Ezra, and in what work did he engage? (Ezra vii.)
43. Who was Nehemiah, and what was his character?

44. What was the name of the king whom Nehemiah served ?
45. Who mocked and ridiculed the Jews when they were rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem ? (Neh. iv.)
46. What relation was Esther the queen to Mordecai ? (Esther ii, 7.)
47. Who was Haman, and what became of him ?
48. In honor of what event was the feast of Purim instituted ?
49. Who are the four prophets called the greater ?
50. What are the name of the twelve lesser prophets ?

HYMN.

Halleluiah ! raise, O raise
 To our God the song of praise :
 All his servants join to sing
 God, our Saviour and our King.

Blessed be for evermore
 That dread name which we adore ;
 O'er all nations, God alone,
 Higher than the heavens his throne.

Yet to view the heavens he bends ;
 Yea, to earth he condescends ;
 Passing by the rich and great,
 For the low and desolate.

He can raise the poor to stand
With the princes of the land;
Wealth upon the needy shower;
Set the lowliest high in power.

He the broken spirit cheers,
Turns to joy the mourner's tears;
Such the wonders of his ways:
Praise his name, forever praise.

THE END.



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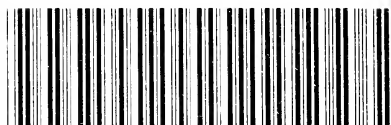
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